

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, stands in front of a large stadium with orange seating. The background is slightly blurred, showing the stadium's architecture and surrounding landscape.

# THE AMERICAN Legion

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

\$2.50 JANUARY 2010

*The magazine for a strong America*

## ROCK SOLID

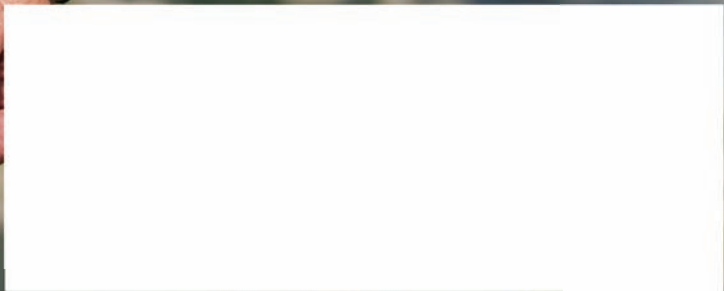
Why Rocky Bleier  
wants to give back  
40 years after Vietnam

**MAJ. GEN. ROBERT H. SCALES**

The common bonds  
of wartime service

**SOLDIERS TO CITIZENS**

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919

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 [www.legion.org/legiontv](http://www.legion.org/legiontv)

*The American Legion Magazine*, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.5 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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Where to go and what to find in The American Legion's electronic media

## New baseball site launches

[www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

American Legion Baseball has an all-new Web presence this month. Coaches, players and fans will soon be able to keep up with their teams with dynamic new Web pages tailored to their needs. Team registration services, schedules, statistics, photos and more can be found online.



Photo by Becky Burch



## BETWEEN THE LINES

Additional material from selected *American Legion Magazine* articles can be found online. Look for extras from the following stories this month:  
[www.legion.org/media](http://www.legion.org/media)

## 42 Trouble with VA? Contact a service officer

The billing process at VA often breaks down, Congress learned last fall. Veterans, regardless of American Legion membership, can turn to American Legion service officers for help when they have questions or disputes about their health-care bills from VA. Use The American Legion Web site to find a service officer near you.

[www.legion.org/departments/officers](http://www.legion.org/departments/officers)

## 50 Quilts for the troops

See video about a heartfelt mission to send camouflage quilts to the deployed.

[www.legion.org/troops](http://www.legion.org/troops)

## 54 USS New York video

Watch the November commissioning of a Navy ship built from the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

[www.legion.org/legiontv](http://www.legion.org/legiontv) (National Security)



## STAY CONNECTED

Follow The American Legion on social media networks.



## HOT LINKS

Great places to go online.

### The Burn Pit

[burnpit.legion.org](http://burnpit.legion.org)



Need to vent about an issue that matters to veterans? **Go to The Burn Pit**

**blog site.** Read the latest posts and share your thoughts with hundreds of others.

### Legiontown, USA

[www.legiontown.legion.org](http://www.legiontown.legion.org)

American Legion posts throughout the world are making differences in their communities.

Share your post's story, and a photo, for all to see.



### Follow the leader

[www.clarencehill.legion.org](http://www.clarencehill.legion.org)

American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill blogs about his travels and issues of importance.

### Legacy Run 2010

[www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)

The 2010 route to Milwaukee is taking shape. Register online to join the fun.

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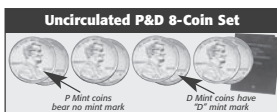
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## 'How the Military Changed My Life'

After reading your November issue, I would like to tell the story of a special individual. Hector Tirado grew up in the South Bronx. Like many young people growing up in the inner city, he got caught up in problems on the street, and a judge gave him the choice of jail or the military. Fortunately, he made the right decision and became a soldier in the U.S. Army.

Upon his discharge, and because of his military training, Hector still wanted to give back to his country. He became a member of the FDNY Emergency Medical Service. At the first opportunity, he took the test to switch over to the fire side and was promoted to firefighter.

I met Hector when he was assigned to my company, Engine 23. As his captain, I had long talks with him and learned about his difficult life. He explained that in his early 20s he adopted three siblings after the death of his parents. He had married young and was the father of five.

Hector was committed to helping the young people of his South Bronx community. His goal was to have a boxing and physical training program to teach them discipline and to stay out of trouble.

Hector came to me in August 2001, less than a year after being assigned to Engine 23, and asked for my help. He left the military on shaky grounds but honorably. He wanted badly to rejoin as a member of the Army Reserve.

Airborne was his dream. I wrote a recommendation for him.

Sept. 11, 2001, changed our lives. Hector Tirado, 30, along with five other members of Engine 23, responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center. Along with 537 other FDNY members, they made the supreme sacrifice. Hector died doing what he loved. The military taught him to stand tall, be proud and always do the right thing.

As a Vietnam War veteran myself, I know the commitment Hector had to God and country. I truly miss him. He would have gone a long way in this world and in the FDNY.

— John Bendick, Yonkers, N.Y.



I was a college senior in 1960 when I realized I had to think seriously about my future. When I graduated I had the choice of joining a branch of service or waiting to be drafted. I elected to join the Navy and was accepted to Officer Candidate School, which was the beginning of my transition from boyhood to manhood. When I was ordered to my ship and began to assume my duties as a junior officer, I quickly learned about responsibility and accountability. No one was going to step in and take the weight off my shoulders. I, and no one else, was accountable for everything I did.

When I left active duty, I made one of the best decisions of my life. I joined a Navy Reserve unit and remained in the ready reserve until my retirement in 1982.

But what has the military done for me? I was able to earn a master's degree because I qualified for, and received, VA benefits while I was in school. My growing family was able to take vacations, and they accompanied me while I served my annual two weeks of active duty whenever I was at a shore installation. The pay I received paid for many necessities that we could not have afforded otherwise.

My wife and I are able to shop at any military base exchange and pay no state or local sales tax. I receive a small but welcome retirement stipend. There are many Navy Lodges in resort areas around the country where we can stay for small fees, including Hawaii. I can fly space-available on military aircraft to almost any U.S. destination, for free. Last, but most important of all, we receive, at no cost, TRICARE health insurance, which supplements our Medicare and civilian health insurance. That may not seem important to many young people, but believe me, the older we get the more important the availability of TRICARE.

— Robert Riddle, Haltom City, Texas

It was interesting reading how the military changed people's lives. I couldn't help but wonder where the other 11 million like me were. Before I joined the Army I was a good Sunday school boy, never smoked or drank, and did not run around with girls. Within months of enlisting, I found myself doing all of the above. What a change in my life! Thankfully, I and others like me quickly got over this when we were discharged, and dutifully took on the responsibilities of families, jobs and law-abiding citizens.

— Frank W. Crane, Findlay, Ohio

I read "How the Military Changed My Life," and I'm sure every veteran can write a similar letter. I thought you might like to hear about my military life and how it changed me.

I came from a family of people who were all very proud to serve. My father served in the U.S. Navy, and my brother served in the U.S. Navy and the Canadian Air Force.

I was living in Canada, and in my senior year, everyone at school enlisted. One of my girlfriends went into the air force. Since I was 16 when I graduated, I went on to college, and when I turned 18, I joined the Canadian Women's Army. They sent me to Winnipeg to be trained as a medical technologist, a job I've worked at all my life. I was able to help put my husband through college to be an engineer, and I've helped my children get educations. They are a teacher, a nurse and a flight attendant, all working.

Here are just a few things I attribute to my service: a career, an ability to travel (which I have done, all over the world), self-confidence, good health and a caring attitude toward others. I wouldn't change one minute of my experience for anything.

— Virginia Kelliher, Carlsbad, N.M.

### Cold War medal

I would like to thank The American Legion for its continued support of the creation and issue of a Cold War Service Medal. Recently, a Department of Defense poll of questions to Secretary Robert Gates resulted in the Cold War medal being the No. 1 question. Similar to the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Cold War Service Medal was previously recommended by Congress but has yet to be issued by DoD.

The Cold War should not be lost to history, nor should its veterans.

— Jim Weller, Warrington, Pa.

### Routine PSA testing

Many thanks for your piece on prostate cancer ("Men Often Skip Prostate Cancer Test," Living Well, November). The tests for PSA are, regrettably, not always foolproof, but they're the best we have at the moment.

I am a survivor of prostate cancer, and without the PSA test, would likely be a statistic. Despite a PSA lower than the conventional wisdom, I followed up and eventually delivered up a tumor just starting to metastasize. Had I not taken action when I did, my cancer would have become an entirely different, and much less treatable, cancer. Please encourage your readers over 50 to pay attention to their prostates, as the likelihood of attack is about one in four. Get it while it's treatable.

— Robert G. Ford, Oak Bluffs, Mass.

### Roster for a new Legion year

In the November issue, there was no mention about National Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Martel being Southern Area commander or that he was Florida department commander in 2008. I do believe he should get that recognition.

— Joseph Martel, Merrimack, N.H.

**Editor's note:** The photo accompanying "Open Your Heart Helps Needy Families Enjoy Christmas" (Rapid Fire, December) appeared courtesy *The Bismarck Tribune*.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

*The American Legion Magazine*, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
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**Knowing the symptoms may save your sight.**

# Boys State: where leaders are cultivated

For a couple of hours last fall, I called time-out from the whirlwind of meetings, phone calls, speeches and travels that come with the territory of this job. A letter had to be written, and it had to come from me, on behalf of a special young man who has greatly benefited from Boys State, and vice versa.

I met Ian Dankelman when he was a junior at Sandalwood High School in Florida. I was Boys State chairman for American Legion Post 316 in Atlantic Beach. Ian came highly recommended by teachers and counselors at the school. After we talked, I knew why.

It helps to understand the competitive nature of Florida Boys State. Numerous interviews and follow-up discussions go into the selection of 525 delegates, who initially qualify on the basis of grades, extracurricular activity, school leadership and references. Once they pass those filters, candidates face more daunting challenges, the kind you won't find on the typical application form.

For instance, I often asked candidates who they would interview from history if they could choose anyone. I asked for the titles of their favorite books, the authors' names, and why their words matter. Little things distinguish good candidates from great ones. One student noticed a typo stitched into the shirt of one of my fellow interviewers: "Post Chaplin." The teen respectfully brought to our attention that the correct spelling, of course, is "chaplain." There are good ways and bad ways to point something like that out. That he *did* point it out was a plus, in my opinion. That he did so *respectfully* put him on the short list.

Ian Dankelman is such a young man – bright, charismatic, inspiring and respectful. My post sponsored him for Boys State in 2005, and he was later chosen as one of two Florida delegates to Boys Nation. That might have been enough for someone else, but not for Ian. Every year since then, he has returned to Florida Boys State and served as a volunteer counselor for other young men interested in government, citizenship, leadership, and the future of our nation. Among those he helped mentor is Co'Relous Bryant, a former Florida Boys State governor who went on to win the 2007 American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest; he is now pursuing a law degree at New York University.

Leadership, I have learned over the years, is best demonstrated when no one is watching. When a young man like Ian takes his own time to inspire others to grow and lead – whether in government, the military, at school or at home – he does so not to enhance his own career. He does so to enhance all of us. That's what leadership is about. That is why I proudly took some time last fall to write a letter of recommendation for his Rhodes Scholarship application.

You never know when an Ian Dankelman will appear at your American Legion post, looking for an opportunity to lead or to inspire others to do so. Among the thousands of students now standing before Legionnaires as the 2010 selection process hits full stride, there are mayors, governors, admirals, congressional representatives, business leaders and maybe even a U.S. president. I guarantee there are leaders, looking for opportunities only available through American Legion Boys State.

*Clarence E. Hill*



National Commander  
Clarence E. Hill

## MEMORANDA

### BOYS STATE WEB SITES

Learn more about Boys State and Boys Nation by visiting [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and clicking on "What We Do." There you'll find nomination information, links to state sites, resources for program chairmen and contacts.

### AWARDS FOR EMPLOYERS

Every year, the National Economic Commission presents several awards at The American Legion national convention to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans and older workers. Those who help veterans find employment are also recognized.

Awards include Employer of the Year – Small Business, Mid-Sized Business and Large Business; Employer of the Disabled Award; Employer of Older Workers Award; Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year; Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist of the Year; and Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year.

Nomination forms are available through American Legion department headquarters.

Questions? Call (202) 263-2995.

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†† In a 3-month clinical study at Temple University School of Medicine and published in the *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, Nutrisystem program participants lost an average of 18 lbs., and lowered fasting blood sugar levels from 149.5 to 115.2, compared to those following a diabetes support and education program, who lost 1.3 lbs, and lowered fasting blood sugar levels from 151.4 to 144. Not all menu items were included in the study. Study funded through an unrestricted educational grant from Nutrisystem.

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**20 NEW  
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# More U.S. troops for Afghanistan



## SUPPORT

**Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.**

■ McCain is ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Though no veteran would ever think of himself as “pro-war,” I believe the fight in Afghanistan is critical to our national security, that our goals there are achievable, and that success is worth the continued sacrifice.

The world walked away from Afghanistan once, and it descended into a cauldron of violence, hatred and human-rights atrocities that served as the base for the worst terrorist attack on our homeland in history. So we cannot let the Taliban and its al-Qaeda allies conquer Afghanistan once more.

We know what it takes to succeed: a resolute commitment to the principles of counterinsurgency, which turned Iraq around during the surge. If given proper military and civilian resources, and if adapted to Afghanistan’s unique geography and culture, such a strategy can help Afghans to stabilize and govern their own sovereign country.

Protecting the population must come first. With improved security, we will be able to train capable, battle-tested Afghan security forces that can defend their country on their own. We can break the insurgency’s momentum, enabling Afghans to reconcile with former fighters who are willing to lay down their arms. And we can create an environment of safety, in which it is more realistic to expect Afghan leaders to meet the high standards that their people and their international partners expect – namely the provision of justice and opportunity, the protection of human rights, and a crackdown on corruption.

Ultimately, that is what success looks like in Afghanistan. It won’t be perfect, but it will allow our fighting men and women to leave with honor, and it will enable Afghans to build a better, more peaceful future for themselves.



## OPPOSE

**Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., R-Tenn.**

■ Duncan is a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I am a life member of The American Legion and one of the most conservative members of Congress, yet I oppose our war in Afghanistan.

George C. Wilson, military columnist for *Congress Daily*, wrote, “The American military’s mission to pacify the 40,000 tiny villages in Afghanistan

will look like ‘Mission Impossible,’ especially if our bombings keep killing Afghan civilians and infuriating the ones who survive.”

*Congressional Quarterly* reported Sept. 17 that members of both parties were “fretting openly about a

lack of progress in the conflict.” As much as we love our troops, we need to realize that the Defense Department is not just a military organization. It is also the world’s largest bureaucracy. Every gigantic bureaucracy wants to expand its mission and frequently exaggerates its challenges so it can get more money and personnel.

National defense is the most legitimate function of our federal government. However, that does not mean Congress should automatically approve the Pentagon’s every request, or never criticize its waste. Most of what we are doing in Afghanistan is of a civic, charitable or governmental nature. But the Defense Department should not be the Department of Foreign Aid, or much of our military a very large version of the Peace Corps.

In March, the president promised a “dramatic increase” in our effort in Afghanistan, including “agricultural specialists and educators, engineers and lawyers.” Why, when we are \$12 trillion in debt, are we spending mega-billions in Afghanistan, doing practically everything for them?

We are spending money we do not have on a very unnecessary war, jeopardizing our own future in the process.

## THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

*Advocates of a troop surge in Afghanistan say it's necessary for victory and, ultimately, our national security. Opponents of the surge call it misguided and a waste of American lives and tax dollars.*

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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## WARNING: DANGEROUS FOOD AHEAD

BY JUDITH HURLEY

Was it the potato salad? Perhaps, but it's just as likely that something else you ate caused that miserable bout of vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps. More than 76 million cases of foodborne illness occur in the United States each year – the result of consuming food contaminated with bacteria, viruses or parasites.

Nearly a third of food-related illness outbreaks investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are triggered by salmonella bacteria, but *Campylobacter*, *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli* and any of a dozen other micro-organisms can be the culprit. While most cases of foodborne illness are mild – perhaps a day or two of abdominal cramps and diarrhea – some are serious. In 2006, spinach contaminated with a particularly vicious bug, *E. coli* O157:H7, sickened hundreds and led to several deaths. In 1997, 2.6 million pounds of strawberries contaminated with hepatitis A, probably from an infected farmworker, caused illness in thousands

of students. Foodborne illness leads to 300,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths each year.

Thanks to high-profile outbreaks involving spinach, berries, peanut butter, peppers and other foods in recent years, awareness of food safety has risen. A Pew-commissioned poll conducted in July found that nearly three in five U.S. voters worry about bacterial contamination of food, and nine in 10 support stronger government measures to ensure food safety. But that's a daunting task, given the scale of today's food-production systems and the often-complex chain of events between field and table. Produce can become tainted in the field, from manure. Raw meat and poultry can become contaminated during slaughter, as can fish during harvesting. Eggs can even have salmonella bacteria inside the shell that originated from bacteria on the hen's ovaries, an event that occurs in about one in every 10,000 eggs.

During food processing, more opportunities for contamination occur. Illness-causing microorganisms on unclean hands, utensils or work surfaces can be transferred to food, and because microorganisms grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 degrees and 140 degrees Fahrenheit, raw and prepared foods left too long at room temperature may harbor enough microscopic pathogens to cause illness.

Most food that consumers buy, prepare and consume is safe, but one can't see or smell the bacteria lurking in inadequately reheated leftovers or potato salad left out too long. You can minimize the likelihood of a surprise attack by taking a few simple precautions.

*Judith Hurley is a registered dietitian.*

Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

### TEN RISKIEST FOODS

Congress has been considering new legislation to strengthen government oversight of food safety. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, these are the 10 riskiest foods regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, based on the number of illness outbreaks:



## CUTTING THE RISK

Try the four-step approach recommended by the Partnership for Food Safety ([www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org)): clean, separate, cook and chill.

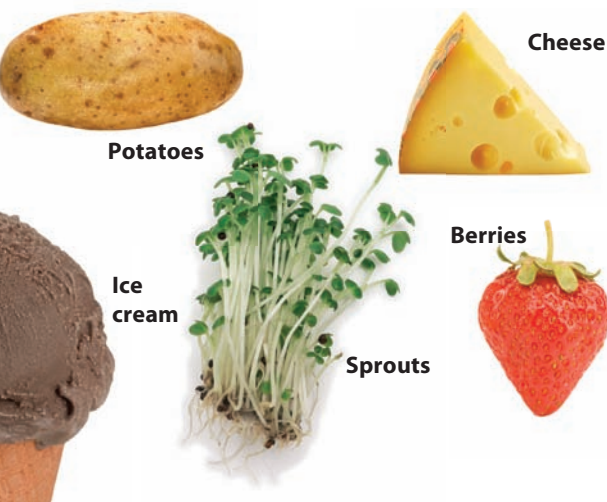
**CLEAN.** To prevent the spread of harmful microorganisms, wash your hands well before and after handling food, sneezing or coughing, touching animals or using the bathroom. Cutting boards, utensils and countertops should be cleaned before and after use.

Although you're probably careful to rinse salad greens, it's also smart to rinse and scrub the rinds of harder fruits and vegetables, such as cantaloupe, where bacteria can cling and be transferred inside when the produce is sliced.

**SEPARATE.** Bacteria and viruses are master hitchhikers, adroitly jumping from hands, knives and leaky food packages onto other surfaces, where they reproduce and multiply given the right conditions. To avoid cross-contamination, keep high-risk raw foods away from other foods. For instance, use separate cutting boards and shopping bags for produce and for meat, poultry and fish. Store meat on a lower refrigerator shelf, where leaked juices won't drip onto other foods.

**COOK.** High heat kills bacteria, so cook meat and poultry to the recommended minimum temperature (generally at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit), and check with a food thermometer. When cooking or reheating in the microwave, stir and rotate food to ensure there are no cold spots. Cooked food kept warm in an oven, slow cooker or chafing dish should be maintained at an internal temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

**CHILL.** Cold temperatures slow bacterial growth. Refrigerators should be set at 40 degrees or below. Stow perishable foods in the refrigerator promptly and don't leave meat, poultry, fish, eggs or dishes that contain them at room temperature for more than two hours.



## BAD BUGS

MICROORGANISM	SYMPTOMS AND ONSET	MOST LIKELY FOOD SOURCES
<b>Campylobacter jejuni</b>	Abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, fever; onset within 2 to 10 days	Undercooked poultry, unpasteurized milk, contaminated water
<b>Clostridium botulinum</b>	Diarrhea, vomiting, blurred or double vision, swallowing difficulty and muscle weakness; can lead to respiratory failure and death; onset within 12 to 72 hours	Improperly canned foods (usually home-canned vegetables), fermented fish, bottled garlic, potatoes baked in aluminum foil
<b>Cryptosporidium</b>	Diarrhea, abdominal cramps, low fever; onset within two to 10 days	Uncooked food or food contaminated by an ill food handler, contaminated water
<b>Cyclospora</b>	Abdominal cramps, diarrhea, weight loss, low fever; onset within two to 10 days	Imported berries and other fresh produce
<b>E. coli O157:H7</b>	Severe diarrhea (often bloody), vomiting and abdominal pain; kidney failure in severe cases; onset within five to 10 days	Undercooked beef, unpasteurized milk and juice, sprouts, contaminated water
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	Diarrhea, dark urine and flu-like symptoms (fever, headache, nausea); onset within 15 to 50 days	Raw fruits and vegetables, uncooked foods or contaminated foods not thoroughly reheated
<b>Noroviruses</b>	Abdominal cramps, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, fever, headache; onset within 12 to 60 hours	Raw produce, shellfish from contaminated waters, uncooked or inadequately reheated foods, contaminated drinking water
<b>Salmonella</b>	Abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and fever; onset within 24 to 48 hours	Eggs, poultry, meat, cheese, unpasteurized milk and juices
<b>Shigella</b>	Abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, fever and blood or mucus in stool; onset within 24 to 48 hours	Raw produce, uncooked foods or contaminated foods not thoroughly reheated, contaminated water
<b>Staphylococcus aureus</b>	Abdominal cramps, severe nausea and vomiting, diarrhea and fever; onset with 24 to 48 hours	Unrefrigerated meats, potato and egg salad, cream pastries
<b>Vibrio vulnificus</b>	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, bloodborne infection; onset within a week	Raw and undercooked shellfish, such as oysters

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration

# Free armored safes being doled out to public

*Armored Safe giveaway ends public worry for those who rush to buy up hoards of brilliant, never-circulated U.S. Gov't issued coins that will never lose their cash value*



■ **HELP IS ON THE WAY:** This never-before-seen photo captures the rapid shipment of free Bankers Armored Safes (left) that are now being shipped to U.S. citizens all across the country. The World Reserve is also making available the larger Bankers Grand Armored Safes (right) free to the general public who beat today's published deadline to buy up the newly released Collection of never-circulated U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency. Those who get through by calling the National Delivery Hotline at 1-866-964-2951 and beat the 7 day order deadline will get the Armored Safes for free.

## By Shawn Oyler

UMS - Imagine finally getting something that will never lose its value.

Sounds too good to be true?

Well, it's true and word is quickly spreading about the free handout of Armored Safes that are being stocked full of never-circulated U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency that by law will never be minted again.

These free Armored Safes are being turned over to the general public who make it in time to beat the order deadline for their share of the hoard of brilliant, never-circulated U.S. Gov't coins and currency before the 7 day shutdown.

"The frantic demand for U.S. Gov't coins has caused the U.S. Mint® to officially halt the sale of many of its most valuable coins," said lead consultant for the World Reserve Thomas C. Harris, Retired Deputy Director

of the U.S. Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

"Today, the World Reserve began to release this hoard of U.S. Gov't coins and currency in a free Armored Safe to the general public. Having valuable U.S. Gov't coins serves as an economic life raft. This valuable Collection will never, never, never lose its face value. You will always have something worth a lot of money," said Harris.

Here's the best part, among the U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency that everyone gets is the highly sought after American Eagle 1-ounce silver bullion coin made from solid .999 fine silver, 250 of the first liberty engraved Westward Journey Nickels, a banker's stack of historic \$2 bills and a full vault tube of the Presidential Golden Dollar Coins.

Here's why that is so important. Just think if you would have saved the same number

of never-circulated Eisenhower Dollar coins from 1974. Remarkably, they would now be worth 500% more in collector value.

This gives you a hint that these are not the same grade as the coins found in loose change, or from the local bank. In fact, these coins remain in brilliant, never-circulated condition if left sealed and untouched.

U.S. Gov't Savings Bonds used to be a favorite way to keep money safe and popular to give as gifts. But no one can take a Savings Bond and go buy something with it.

That's why this hoard of valuable coins gives everyone the comfort of having full control of their money. No matter what, they will never lose their U.S. cash value.

If times ever get really tough any coin in the hoard could be used to buy anything. But unless it is a good reason, only a fool would do that because this personal hoard of money is

already worth so much more in collector value.

"So many people are buying up these coins. Even for those people who give away some of their collection as gifts, they are keeping the Armored Safe for themselves," said Robert Anthony, Director of the private World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"This Safe is one of the absolute best places to keep valuables and important papers. People will now have a safe place to store their wills, guns, jewelry, antiques, keys, coins and even cash," Anthony said.

"The only problem the Safe creates is when it's time to read your Will. You need to make sure everyone knows who you want to leave it to," he said.

"When Americans get their hands on this Safe and their very own personal hoard of U.S. Gov't Coins, they'll really do a double take. Everyone will feel like they just won the lottery," he said. ■

# How to get the free Armored Safes

All those who beat the 7 day order deadline for each personal hoard of U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency from the World Reserve Collection will actually be awarded the Bankers Armored Safes absolutely free.

**Eligibility:** Certain restrictions apply: Open to the public only, sorry no dealers. Those who miss the 7 day deadline will be turned away from this free offer and required to wait for future announcements, in this or other publications. The entire World Reserve Collection must be obtained to get the safe free. For more information about the larger Bankers Grand Armored Safes please call.

TO GET THE FREE SAFES USE THIS

**FREE CLAIM CODE:  
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**AND CALL 1-866-964-2951  
BEFORE THE 7 DAY ORDER SHUTOFF**

**Terms & Conditions:** To receive delivery of your free Armored Safe and the first shipment of coins, you'll only need to cover the first installment for as little as \$149, then cover the difference for the remaining shipments to complete your entire collection of U.S. Gov't coins. The No-Worry guarantee ensures that refunds be granted for all items properly returned, less shipping for 90 days from the day you receive your safe and first shipment. That means, cancellation will require the return of the free armored safe. Failure to do so will require remittance for the safe of four hundred and thirty six dollars. THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE, INC. IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, A BANK OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF U.S. COINS DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. OH AND FL RESIDENT TRANSACTIONS REQUIRE THE REMITTANCE OF APPLICABLE SALES TAX. SORRY NO SHIPMENTS TO VT AND MA RESIDENTS. ADVERTISEMENT FOR WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE, INC. 8000 FREEDOM AVE., N. CANTON OH 44720.

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■ **LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY:** Everyone gets the personal hoard consisting of 267 never-circulated U.S. Gov't coins and currency including 12 Presidential Golden Dollar Coins in a sealed Vault Roll, a heavy vault brick containing 250 of the first liberty engraved Westward Journey Nickels and, best of all, a solid .999 fine silver American Silver Eagle and a banker's stack of 4 historic \$2 bills. If times ever get really tough, any coin in this collection could be used to buy anything. Keep it as long as you can because this hoard is already worth so much more than face value.



■ **NO MORE WORRIES:** Carolyn Ford of Perry Town, OH thought she hit the jackpot when her free Bankers Armored Safe was delivered. "I already have some old coins, but I wanted this whole hoard of U.S. coins as a nice nest egg. I'll also set aside some of my hoard for my Grandchildren. Now I don't have to worry where to keep my important papers and my Grandfather's gun since I have my new safe," she said.



## 7 Smart places to stash your cash

By Aaron Robinson

So you're still hiding money under the mattress or in the bread box?

Well, you're not alone. Ever since financial institutions have been dropping like flies, millions of Americans have stopped relying solely on their banks.

**1. Be sure your bank is insured.** Over 100 banks have failed so far this year. So, if you're not sure if your bank is insured, find out right away.

**2. Start and grow a coin collection.** Coin collections are tangible assets that will always keep their face value, instead of just owning stocks that could depreciate or lose you money.

**3. Keep some cash safe at home.** Cash is King. Believe it, but remember not to keep it in a thief's favorite spot; like in the bread box or the mattress. These will never have the protection that a quality home safe can provide.

**4. Savings Bonds, an old favorite.** Savings Bonds are an easy way for your money to stay safe in the future. However, if lost or stolen they could be difficult to replace unless the serial number was kept in a safe place.

**5. Gold and silver still shine.** If you own gold or silver, great, hold on to it. But if you don't, one of your best bets is to try to get as many U.S. Gov't issued gold and silver coins as you can.

**6. Hold on to real estate.** With interest rates at historic all-time lows the market is sure to recover and property values will once again bounce back. So those who hold on to their homes for the long term will likely reap the benefits of these investments.

**7. Buy a good safe.** Home safes become an absolute necessity during economic turmoil. But, because of the huge spike in recent sales, safes may be hard to come by.

With all this you'll be much safer, just in case your bank is the next to fail. ■



## Science and the gift of sight

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

In a recent editorial in VA's *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, two prominent experts in vision rehabilitation had this to say about the prospects for a workable prosthetic eye: "The miracle of restoring sight to the blind, told in legends and myths throughout human cultures and history, is moving from dream to possibility in our times."

The authors, Drs. Gislin Dagnelie of Johns Hopkins University and Ronald Schuchard of VA and Emory University, are among many researchers worldwide working toward this goal. For its part, VA sponsors the Boston-based Center for Innovative Visual Rehabilitation and the Atlanta VA Rehabilitation Center for Aging Veterans with Vision Loss, along with related projects at a few other VA sites.

Several different technologies are in the works to help restore sight for those with vision loss. Some methods will apply only to those with blindness caused by certain conditions, such as macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa. Others will have broader application and help most types of blindness.

In one approach, a tiny camera mounted in eyeglasses sends images to a computer chip worn on a belt. The chip converts the images to electronic signals and forwards them to a receiver implanted on the eye. The receiver, in turn, sends the signals through an ultra-thin cable to a tiny panel of electrodes mounted on the surface of the retina. The electrodes stimulate the remaining healthy cells of the retina, which pass information through the optic nerve to the brain. The brain perceives patterns of light and dark that patients eventually learn to interpret. For example, a line of vertical lights could be a door or the edge of a table.

Such results may seem rather modest. But for people who have gone years without sight, being able to discern the outline of their child, for example, or take a stroll down the block can mean a huge boost in independence and quality of life.

*Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.*

## HOSPITAL CHOICES

Dr. Carolyn Clancy of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has some tips on choosing a hospital. "If you need emergency hospital care, go to the closest hospital. But if you aren't facing an emergency, take the time to do some research," she advises.

For example, ask your physician, talk with friends about their experiences, and peruse the growing library of hospital report cards produced by sources such as *U.S. News & World Report* and Medicare.

"Measuring hospital quality isn't a perfect science," Clancy says. "But we have a lot of information today to help you make an educated decision."

**Read hospital report cards online:**

 [www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/reportcards.shtml](http://www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/reportcards.shtml)

**Also, AHRQ offers a hospital checklist:**

 [www.ahrq.gov/consumer/qnt/qnthosp.htm#choosing](http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/qnt/qnthosp.htm#choosing)

## METAL MOUTHS

Do silver-colored dental fillings put you at risk from mercury exposure? Not according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The agency, along with a panel of dental and neurology experts, recently reviewed some 200 scientific studies on amalgam fillings and concluded the amount of mercury released from them is "not high enough to cause harm to patients." The American Dental Association agrees, noting two large clinical trials and numerous smaller studies indicate that amalgam – composed of mercury and other metals – poses little risk to health. Information about cavity-filling options can be found at ADA's Web site.

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# Health budget 'football' to end soon

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Rita Reed, a senior VA budget executive, sees no significant challenges ahead in implementing advance funding of VA health-care budgets, a legislative victory for The American Legion and other veterans service organizations that, for years, sought a solution to chronic budget delays that have impacted the availability and quality of care at VA hospitals and clinics.

As VA's principal deputy assistant secretary for management, Reed has worked on department budgets for 31 years. She agreed that the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, signed by President Obama on Oct. 22, will bring more budget stability to VA health facilities.

Congress has been late in passing VA funding bills in 22 of the past 25 years. The habit has forced veterans medical facilities to operate up to several months of nearly every fiscal year under a "CR," or continuing resolution, which effectively freezes spending at the previous year's level.

Such freezes impact the delivery of health care because hospital and clinic managers can't hire new staff, buy new equipment or make needed repairs to facilities in a timely way.

Advance funding will virtually assure the VA health system and its 5 million enrolled beneficiaries that this won't happen again, starting next year. Dollars needed for medical services and support – and to operate and maintain facilities – will be appropriated nearly a year early, thereby shielding these dollars from the political gamesmanship that occurs each fall.

Next February, when the administration submits its VA budget to Congress for fiscal 2011, health-care dollars for that year will already have been approved. However, in requesting advance health funding for fiscal 2012, the administration could try to adjust the 2011 budget with a supplemental request (if needed) for new budget realities, Reed said.

Congress itself could step in with its own amendment if it felt funds advanced to VA earlier were not enough, Reed said.

Not authorized for advance funding are monies for information technology. So VA and Congress will have to carefully "sync up" how those dollars are spent year to year, so as not to slow development of electronic health records and other IT initiatives.

In addition, VA advance appropriations will not

cover medical research, prosthetics, and VA construction dollars, Reed said. This could impact administration plans, for example, to gradually open VA health-care facilities to more Priority Group 8 veterans. If that effort ever begins to require VA medical centers to increase total patient capacity, the cost of infrastructure expansion will have to be funded through the annual VA appropriations process, not through advance appropriations.

What makes VA advance health-care funding feasible is a sophisticated

computer model for projecting health-care costs developed for VA by Milliman, Inc., a leading private-sector actuarial firm. Reed said VA has used the Milliman model for several years, and it accurately predicted the cost of caring for the number of patients expected.

The advance appropriations law tasks the U.S. comptroller general, head of the Government Accountability Office, to monitor through 2013 how VA uses the model and sets advance funding for health care. This is to assure Congress that the process is working as intended and that veterans aren't seeing care delayed or quality dropped for lack of resources.

*Tom Philpott, a former Coast Guardsman, has written about veterans and military personnel issues for more than 30 years.*



Media Bakery

# Bob Vila endorses and recommends the famous EdenPURE® portable heater

## Millions of Americans now saving on their heating bills and raving about the "heavenly heat"

### Does not get hot, cannot start a fire and will not reduce humidity or oxygen

By John Whitehead,  
Media Services

The famous infrared portable heater, the EdenPURE®, has been greatly improved.

The new EdenPURE® GEN3 heater heats better, faster, saves more on heating bills and runs almost silent.

The EdenPURE® can pay for itself in a matter of weeks and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. But the EdenPURE® cannot cause a fire. That is because the advanced infrared heating element never gets to a temperature that can ignite anything.

The outside of the EdenPURE® only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets.

The EdenPURE® will also keep you healthy. That is because, unlike other heating sources, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room.

The advanced space-age EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater also heats the room evenly, wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. And, as you know, most other portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater.

Unlike other heating sources, the EdenPURE® cannot put poisonous carbon monoxide, any type of fumes or any type of harmful radiation into a room.

For more details on the amazing EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater, here is my interview with Bob Vila, America's Favorite TV Home Improvement Expert.

**Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE®?**

A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones.

**Q. What advantages does this advanced infrared heating process have over other heating source products?**

A. This infrared heating process was designed around the three most important

## Never be cold again



**Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm**

Pictured above is Bob Vila demonstrating the famous EdenPURE® GEN3 Model 1000 heater with a family. It saves big money on your heating bill while keeping you toasty warm with "heavenly heat".

consumer benefits: economy, comfort, and safety.

In the EdenPURE® process, electricity is used to generate a type of infrared heat which, in turn, creates a very safe heat.

**Q. How can a person cut their heating bill with the EdenPURE®?**

A. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, the savings can be substantial.

**End of interview.**  
The EdenPURE® will

pay for itself in weeks. It will keep a great deal of extra money in a users pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® will provide even greater savings as the time goes by.

The EdenPURE® heater is now greatly improved. With no increase in price, the new EdenPURE® has been updated with the latest technology, safety, and comfort features to provide you with even greater comfort, more savings, and years of reliability. The EdenPURE® comes with a comprehensive three year warranty along with a 60-day no questions asked satisfaction guarantee – we pay the return shipping.

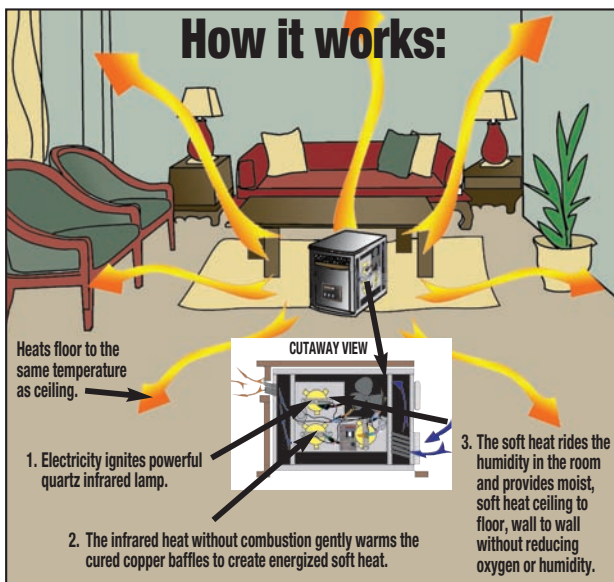
This product has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories.

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The EdenPURE® has cut my gas bill to a third of what it was last year. *Leslie Wilson, Vancouver, WA*

With our EdenPURE® heater our gas bill dropped so much that the gas company called us and said our gas meter must be broken and they wanted to replace it. *John and Sandy Hopkins, Elyria, OH*

Average homeowner saves 10% to 25% monthly. This is an advertisement for the EdenPURE® Heater. All of the testimonials are by actual EdenPURE® customers who volunteered their stories, and were given another EdenPURE® heater as thanks for their participation.



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The price of the EdenPURE® GEN3 Model 500 is \$372 plus \$17 shipping for a total of \$389 delivered. The GEN3 Model 1000 is \$472 plus \$27 shipping and handling for a total of \$499 delivered. People reading this publication get a \$75 discount plus free shipping and handling and pay only \$297 delivered for the GEN3 Model 500 and \$397 delivered for the GEN3 Model 1000 if you order within 10 days. The EdenPURE® GEN3 comes in the decorator color of black with burl wood accent which goes with any decor. There is a strict limit of 3 units at the discount price - no exceptions please.

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# SOLDIERS TO CITIZENS

*For more and more immigrants, the road to the United States is paved by military commitment.*

BY JAY STULLER

Last April in San Antonio, below the famous clock tower in the historic Quadrangle of Fort Sam Houston, Spc. 4th Class Ljubisa Pejic took a momentous step in an already remarkable life journey. A Christian Serb born and raised in a predominantly Muslim city in Bosnia, young Pejic and his family survived the ethnic cleansing of the early 1990s. They were persecuted, harassed and forced from their home. Pejic fled to Greece, held a series of odd jobs and found work as a merchant marine that eventually brought him to Baltimore, where he was granted political asylum and a green card. He learned English, graduated from college, earned a degree from the University of Miami School of Law and became a practicing attorney.

But to Pejic an important obligation remained. Speaking to a large assembly on the Quadrangle – and on behalf of 54 other foreign-born soldiers – Pejic explained his belief that U.S. intervention in the Bosnian region saved his family. The nation also gave him opportunity. Thus, the grateful lawyer had recently enlisted in the Army to serve as a much-needed combat medic.

On this spring day in Texas, 55 men and women took a naturalization oath administered by Judge Orlando L. Garcia. Some were longtime U.S. residents. Others were relatively new arrivals. Nevertheless, Ljubisa “Louie” Pejic and his comrades have a lot in common. They’re all immigrants from foreign countries. All are U.S. soldiers. And now they are American citizens.

Military citizenship ceremonies are increasingly common, as growing numbers of immigrants are expediting the process by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thanks to an executive order signed by President Bush in the wake of 9/11, active-duty men and women with green cards can apply for, and receive, U.S. citizenship almost immediately. Since then, Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has naturalized more than 49,000 servicemembers, including nearly 6,600 in ceremonies conducted overseas and on board Navy flagships at sea.

Attached to the Department of Homeland Security, USCIS oversees lawful immigration and establishes services, policies and priorities to preserve the nation’s legacy as one of immigrants



while ensuring that no one who is a threat to public safety is admitted into the country. The agency also adjudicates visa and naturalization petitions, and asylum and refugee applications. Despite the broad portfolio, helping immigrant military members and their families become citizens, here and overseas, is a clear and urgent USCIS priority, and one that's good for the new citizens and the country alike.

According to the Department of Defense, approximately 31,000 foreign-born troops now serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, or about 1.5 percent of the total military. That percentage may grow, due in part to a new program in which immigrants with temporary visas and specific skills desperately needed by DoD – language interpretation, medical care and intelligence analysis – can become a U.S. citizen within six months. As Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, the Army's top recruit-

ment officer, recently told *The New York Times*, "The American Army finds itself in a lot of different countries where cultural awareness is critical. There will be some very talented people in this group." What's more, these new Americans apparently fit in quite well.

"The military is a special group of people, and the kind of men and women who join are exactly the kind of individuals that the country wants and needs as citizens," says Chris Rhatigan, an Army Reserve veteran and deputy press secretary at USCIS responsible for the agency's military portfolio. "They bring knowledge and skills we either don't have or are in short supply. And because the soldiers and their families serving overseas are carrying some of the heaviest of loads, the people from our agency will go wherever needed to ensure the naturalization process and ceremonies are done correctly."

Indeed, in late May, Rhatigan was packing her bags for a trip to Honduras, where, for the first time in that country, two U.S. soldiers were to be naturalized. At the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa,

**ABOVE:** Thirty-one U.S. servicemembers prepare to take the oath of citizenship during a military naturalization ceremony in the Pentagon Courtyard on Sept. 10. DoD

Army Staff Sgt. Damien Milne, a native of the Marshall Islands, received his citizenship a month after submitting an application and acing his naturalization test. Joining him was Army Sgt. Carmen Villa, a native of Mexico, who also passed her test with a perfect score. Honduras was the 15th nation in which USCIS has conducted naturalization ceremonies outside the United States.

Since 2005, nearly 400 military personnel have been naturalized in Afghanistan, roughly 1,000 in Germany, 2,655 in Iraq, 670 in South Korea and two in Iceland. In Seoul in 2008, USCIS conducted the first overseas naturalization that included a military spouse, and since then has naturalized nearly 130 more in nations such as Spain, the United Kingdom, Japan and Italy.

"We'll have local JAG and other personnel helping make sure the paperwork is in order and that the ceremony is well-planned, and it's why we like to have someone from USCIS embedded nearly a week ahead of time," Rhatigan says. The ceremonies are joyous, sobering and always emotional. "Quite a few of our soldiers want their family, friends and platoon mates on hand for the ceremonies," she says.

**An Impressive Résumé.** Critical to U.S. military successes since before the revolution, immigrant soldiers have served the nation with exceptional bravery. Thirteen foreign-born soldiers are recipients of the Medal of Honor. In 2006, USCIS began honoring each of the 13 by creating small and individual memorial spaces at agency offices throughout the country. An upcoming History Channel documentary film, "The Naturalized," pays special attention to the military-to-citizenship connection as a key component in the overall U.S. immigration picture.

Special procedures for naturalizing and making citizens of immigrants serving in the U.S. military date back to the Civil War. Each war era since has had variations on the length of service required, when citizenship would be granted, and other terms particular to the circumstance and time. The original Civil War statute, for example, applied only to those serving in the Army (the Navy and Marine Corps weren't added until after 1890), required a year-long residency, and the alien had to be 21 years of age or older. An honorable discharge was also required.

Statutes enacted during World War I and again during the Korean War allowed for naturalization proceedings to take place outside the United States. For alien members of the U.S. military, the World War I statute was also the first to waive the fees usually associated with naturalization petitions, which are also waived today. For a civilian, these

total about \$675. According to a Congressional Research Service report for Congress, until the Vietnam War, "special provisions for wartime service were generally enacted during a particular war and only covered service during that war, not for either past or prospective periods of conflict."

Not every deployment of U.S. forces into armed conflict has coincided with new naturalization provisions. The Congressional Research Service reported that actions

in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo and Panama "have not been designated as a period of hostilities, although U.S. forces faced hostile conditions." And while President Reagan designated the Grenada campaign as a period of hostilities, a federal court invalidated the action, mainly because of complications over areas of hostilities and those who may or may not qualify.

Prior to the order signed by President Bush, immigrant soldiers had to complete a year of honorable service before qualifying to file for citizenship. Even now, an immigrant member of the U.S. Armed Forces must meet certain requirements and qualifications to become a citizen, including demonstrating good moral character, a knowledge of the English language, a knowledge of U.S. government and the nation's history, and attachment to the country by taking an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. Usually, a non-citizen wishing to become a citizen through the civilian process must have five years of legal permanent residency in the United States to apply.

For much of the nation's history, citizenship has



**ABOVE:** Marine Cpl. Milton Trejo, from El Salvador, recites the oath of allegiance during a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services swearing-in ceremony aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in 2006. Nearly 90 servicemembers from 29 countries participated in the naturalization. DoD

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also been granted posthumously to immigrant soldiers. Since 2001, about 150 immigrants have been killed while serving in the U.S. military, including 25-year-old Army Sgt. Christian Bueno-Galdos. Born in Peru, Bueno-Galdos and his family moved to the United States when he was 7. His father explained that patriotism compelled Bueno-Galdos to join the Army right out of high school. He became a citizen in 2005. While on his second tour of duty in Iraq, Bueno-Galdos was one of five soldiers killed earlier this year by a distraught comrade

at a stress clinic. Although the family had difficulty deciding whether to bury their son in his native Peru or the United States, they noted that serving in the Army was his greatest joy. And so Bueno-Galdos was buried in New Jersey last Memorial Day weekend, with full military honors.

**Higher Stakes, Pressing Needs.** Of course, there are benefits to be had for immigrant soldiers. In return for their demonstrated commitment to the United States, says Rhatigan, these individuals “often have a chance for a better life, a job in which to build workplace skills, a better education and all of the other benefits that accrue to veterans.” In addition, with a military stretched thin by wartime deployments, immigrants can expect their share of heavy lifting as well, which takes a certain brand of determination.

One who seemed to have that was 24-year-old U.S. Army infantryman and immigrant Pvt. Cesar Aguilar, who in 2006 took his U.S. citizenship oath at Fort Lewis, Wash., along with 23 other soldiers from the Stryker Brigade and 15 Army spouses, representing 20 different countries. Aguilar started picking produce in his native Mexico at the age of 5, crossed into the United States at 13 and, despite leaving one form of hardship behind, struggled with others. He graduated from high school and earned college credits, but English didn’t come easily for him. In fact, it took him seven tries to pass the Army entrance exam, mostly due to language difficulties. “I kept coming back,” he told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. “Even my recruiter was impressed. He told me that not so many people do that, especially in time of war.”

That was all he needed to add to his skill set. “I also jump from airplanes,” Aguilar says proudly. “I finished airborne school.”

Another new citizen sworn in with Aguilar represents a different piece of the immigrant soldier contribution. Spc. Rasha Corpuz, a native of Romania, was recruited as an Arabic-speaking

combat interpreter. She’s just the kind of soldier that West Point professor Margaret Stock has in mind for the various challenges facing the modern military.

“I think it would be wonderful if

Americans started studying Arabic and Pashtun at age 3, but there doesn’t seem to be any effort at teaching anything in our schools other than English,” Stock told The Associated Press. “You cannot deploy globally without the contributions of immigrants; the culture skills and language skills they contribute are integral to the success of the war effort.”

In early 2009, the U.S. military began actively recruiting immigrants with temporary visas. This newest fast track would be limited to about 1,000 enlistees in its first year, with the aim of recruiting those who could speak one or more of about 35 languages, including Russian, Chinese, Nepalese and Kurdish. Medical skills like those Louie Pejic brought to the Army also are a priority. If the pilot program is successful, the Pentagon hopes it will provide up to 14,000 volunteers a year. And if the future is anything like the past and present, these new U.S. soldiers won’t see themselves only as immigrants anymore. Explains Rhatigan: “I talk to officers in the field, and it’s been made clear to me that these people are force multipliers. More important, no one in a platoon thinks of an immigrant soldier as anything but a fellow soldier. They’re not ‘those’ men and women. They’re ‘our’ men and women.” 🇺🇸

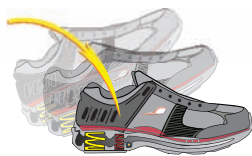
*Jay Stuller is the author of eight books and more than 1,000 magazine articles.*



**ABOVE:** U.S. troops take the citizenship oath inside Al-Faw palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, on March 3. Nearly 250 candidates from 65 different countries took the oath. U.S. Army

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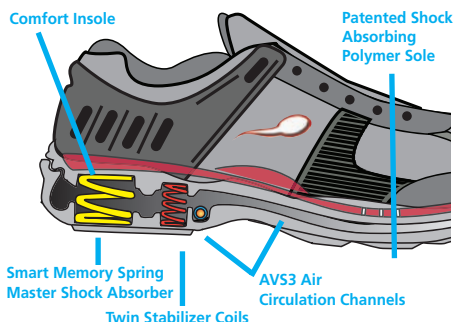
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# A PRAYER REMEMBERED

*Former NFL star, saved from combat wounds in Vietnam, longs to give back.*

In his book “River Horse,” author William Least Heat-Moon wrote, “Our physical components change every seven years, so our brains are continuously passing along memories to a stranger; who we have been is only a ghostly fellow traveler. Were human memory total and perfect, perhaps I’d be only one person from start to finish, but forgetfulness cuts me off from who I’ve been, so that hourly I am reborn.”

**BY ROCKY BLEIER**

**F**orty years ago, I was lying in a hospital bed in Tokyo. The pain was a constant reminder of what had happened days before – every detail and emotion of that firefight, which ultimately put my life on another path, was seared into my mind. The story over these many years has been told and told again, how a little running back out of Notre Dame made the Pittsburgh Steelers, only to be drafted again by Uncle Sam and sent to fight in Vietnam. My struggle to overcome injuries and ultimately play for the Steelers once more has been told in the book and movie “Fighting Back.”

As I think back on the words of Heat-Moon, I am not that 23-year-old kid any longer. Although the highlights of my life are vivid, the retelling of the story is now gospel. Who I was, the emotions I had then, unfortunately, have faded with time.

The story here is what have I learned over these 40 years. Maybe that’s the question we end up asking ourselves. What have we learned? What have we done? Have we made a difference?

One thing I learned, despite the fact that I only put two years in the military, is that those two years forever altered my life. They were pivotal, because all I learned prior had set a foundation for what I was to experience in the military. What I learned in the military became a springboard for the rest of my life.

Sixteen years of Catholic education was a great training ground for my experience in the service. Like a block of clay on an artist’s bench, eight years of being “kneaded” and “molded” by the Sisters of Notre Dame resulted in a foundation on which the final product could stand. They taught me respect. “Yes, Sister,” “No, Sister,” turned into “Yes, Sergeant,” “No, Sergeant.” They handed out corporal punishment like there was no tomorrow.

They made you sit up straight, stand in a corner, walk a narrow line. They taught you how to read, write and memorize your math tables. This was Basic Training 101; no drill sergeant could instill as much fear in the heart of his intended victim as a fifth-grade teacher with a ruler in her hand and righteousness in her eyes.

With that foundation in place, the final sculpture started to be carved with the constant pounding, prodding and questioning by a group of single-minded men called Christian Brothers. They took you to the lowest common denominator and built you up from there. No more cajoling or goofing around. Expectations were high, and if you didn’t live up to them, it would be a “knuckle buster” in the arm or the sole of a tennis shoe across your butt. They questioned your heritage, manliness and, ultimately, your soul.

They made you think and take responsibility for your actions. This part of my education was a precursor to advanced infantry training.

From the artist’s bench, I went to be “glazed” and “baked in the oven.” I went off to a finishing school for more education and training. For me, the final product was to be sanded, smoothed and airbrushed at the University of Notre Dame. This was my non-com or OCS graduation.

Parallel to this formal education was an informal one taught on the playing fields of my youth, and then later within the confined structure of organized sports. In those early pick-up games, you learned how to organize, set rules and settle disputes. You improvised around the conditions and made do with the players you had.

As one progressed in the athletic arena, it then became structured. You had coaches and rules. You started to learn about the game and what it



**PHOTOS BY MATTHEW RAINEY**

*After overcoming the injuries he sustained while serving in Vietnam, Rocky Bleier returned to the Pittsburgh Steelers and helped them win four championship titles during the 1970s. Today, Bleier still lives in the city that embraced him and longs to give back in a meaningful way.*



**"I will forever be proud to have served our country."**

took to win. You were now expected to work out and be in shape. You learned about hard work, practice and discipline. You drilled and drilled and drilled, until the play became second nature. Coaches yelled, screamed, made you do push-ups and, along the way, you got better. You learned about teamwork, commitment and discipline.

The one thing the "Good Sisters" taught you was to learn how to pray. If you prayed long and hard enough, they said, your prayers would be answered. So you prayed – for sick days, no homework, snow days, no practice. You prayed to win, not get hurt, to pass a test. Sometimes you prayed just to make sense of the changing world around you.

My world was changing.

My draft notice came on a Wednesday. I was a rookie with the Pittsburgh Steelers. We were getting ready to play our 12th game of the 1968 NFL season. By Friday, I was on my way to the induction center at Fort Jackson, S.C. I ended up at Fort Gordon, Ga., for basic training and AIT.

Needless to say, my life was upside down. My senses were stunned. This was not to happen! Emotionally, I was stripped of all logic. I was now in a reaction mode. I prayed I would survive.

What got me through was the simple fact that I was here before. Every training camp I had attended and every practice I went through took over. The basics were the same: tear down, build up, learn the fundamentals, understand your role and work as a team.

Like everything else, what is experienced in the classroom or on the practice field is not necessarily transferred into the game. Hopefully, you have been prepared well enough to understand the plan and what your particular assignment may be. But the real skill comes from your ability to adapt and make adjustments – the difference between success and failure, between good and great.

Our point man on Aug. 20, 1969, couldn't or didn't make the adjustment. We were in an open rice paddy, walked into an ambush and got caught in a crossfire.

I got wounded for the first time. With a short lull in the action, I was amazed that my first thoughts

were about a story my sixth-grade teacher, Sister Hilare, had told us about World War II soldiers and their foxhole prayers. They prayed that if they got out of their situation, they would build churches, or become priests, or do great deeds. So I gave it my best shot.

As much as I wanted to promise great things, the reality of the situation was that I knew myself well enough to know that if I got out in one piece, my resolve would melt away. Like in the game of hide-and-go-seek when we were kids, when you got tired of looking for someone, you would give up and yell, "Ollie, Ollie, all in free!"

My prayer thus became this: "If you get me out of here, you have my life to do with as you please. I'll share the good times and not complain about the bad times." It was the best I could do, and maybe that is all we have to offer.

The second time I got wounded, it put me in the hospital for nine months, plus two years of rehabilitation. A grenade blew up through my right foot and leg. With a lot of hard work, determination and perseverance, I made the Steelers. I played 11 more years and helped win four Super Bowls.

What I learned from my military experience that carried over into my professional career is that success depends on having the right people in place, that ineffectiveness is a recipe for disaster, that football is a game while war is about life or death. I will forever be proud to have served our country. We wear a common badge of valor and, like my fellow teammates, we will be forever linked together.

Eight years ago, Tom Brokaw used the phrase "fog of battle" to describe scenes of 9/11 – confusion and chaos left some virtually paralyzed with fear, while others seemed to be guided or directed, seeing something or someone that others could not see.

I have seen this "fog of battle" on playing fields as well as battlefields, where some seemed to be frozen while others seemed to be committed to a course of action. They're the ones who would cause us to stand in awe and ask, "How were they able to do this?" or "Why did they do this?"

The answer may be as simple as the dignity of



## We wear a common badge of valor and ... we will be forever linked together."

man, the sense of duty or the belief in teamwork: "I have your back, and will never leave you behind."

There was a waning moon that night as we were trying to make our way out of that firefight. We were badly beat up. The 4th Platoon fought its way to drag us out, and they weren't in much better shape. Those who couldn't walk had to be carried, and the going was slow. Eventually, it would take us six hours to get to a secured area. Even though the adrenaline masked some of the pain, it was starting to go south.

I salute my bearers for having to carry 180 pounds of moaning dead-weight through the night on a path made by some small furry creature. They did as well as they could, but they, too, were only human. They got tired and would lay me down until someone else would pick up the load.

About three quarters of the way to our destination, fatigue set in for all. I was left behind and told they would send somebody back, hopefully with a stretcher. Soldier after soldier slowly shuffled by, when out of the darkness a hand grabbed my shirt and a low, tired voice said, "I got you, soldier," and someone threw me over his shoulders and carried me the rest of the way.

It was like every other hand that had reached down over the years and pulled me up off the playing fields – a selfless act committed to a course of action, a teammate who had my back.

It may seem out of context now these 40 years later, but that hand happened to be black. In a time of civil-rights unrest and desegregation, the battlefield – like the playing field – wasn't about race. It was about your fellow man, the brotherhood of team.

The word "hero" is sometimes too readily used to describe someone's actions. The best definition of that word I have read is this: a hero is a person who does what has to be done, when it needs to be done, without thinking about the consequences. My fellow soldier above, to me, was a hero.

Sometimes it's not enough to say, "Thank you." Sometimes you have to take a stand and give back. Was that prayer I uttered 40 years ago good enough,

or is the bigger question, "What have I done?"

On Sept. 11, 2001, in the "fog of battle" in New York, Washington, and on a plane over Pennsylvania, new heroes were born. As thousands screamed and ran in terror from a burning, towering inferno, hundreds of firefighters, police officers and rescue workers ran into it. On a plane destined for suicide, the crew and passengers chose to overpower the hijackers, regardless of their own fate, so that perhaps thousands of their fellow Americans could be saved.

We who watched their acts of heroism and selfless care for others stand in awe and are humbled. We are reminded every day of the men and women who continue to fight this war on terrorism. We will never forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, those who carry the scars of war and those who serve with dignity. We shall forever call them heroes.

We may never forget where we were on that day eight years ago, but like in the book "River Horse," our brains are continuously passing along memories to a stranger, and those memories tend to fade.

As a 23-year-old, I thought I could save the world; today, I know better. But maybe I can save one memory. The tragedy of Flight 93 was in my backyard. Forty strangers came together, and like any Super Bowl team or combat unit, they devised and executed a plan, saving untold thousands of lives.

All of who I am has now come to identify with that group. Like a hand reaching out of the darkness, there was something I could do: I could help raise money to build a memorial to their memory. Be it for the dignity of

man, a sense of duty or a belief in team, I want you to join us in "We Will Never Forget," a tribute to our heroes.

I hope that 23-year-old private is proud of how his life has turned out. 🌿

*Vietnam War veteran Rocky Bleier was a running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers during their dynasty years of the 1970s.*

Read more information about the Flight 93 Memorial online:

 [www.honorflight93.org](http://www.honorflight93.org)

# Amish mantle and miracle invention help home heat bills hit rock bottom

*Miracle heaters being given away free with orders for real Amish fireplace mantles to announce the invention that helps slash heat bills, but Amish craftsmen under strain of Christmas rush force household limit of 2*

**Save money: only uses about 9¢ electric an hour; so turn down your thermostat and never be cold again**

By MARK WOODS  
Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) Everyone hates high heat bills. But we're all sick and tired of simply turning down the thermostat and then being cold.

Well now, the popular HEAT SURGE® miracle heaters are actually being given away free to the general public for the next 7 days starting at precisely 8:00 a.m. today.

The only thing readers have to do is call the National Distribution Hotline before the 7-day deadline with their order for the hand-made Amish Fireplace Mantle. Everyone who does is instantly being awarded the miracle heater absolutely free.

This is all happening to announce the HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow® Fireplace which actually rolls from room-to-room so you can turn down your thermostat and take the heat with you anywhere. That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately start saving on their heat bills.

Just in time for winter weather, portable Amish encased fireplaces are being delivered directly to the doors of all those who beat the deadline.

These remarkable fireplaces are being called a miracle because they have what's being called the *Fireless Flame*™ patented technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, smells, ashes or mess. Everyone is getting them because they require no chimney and no vent. You



■ **GENUINE AMISH MANTLES MADE IN THE USA:** Everyone wants to save money on heat bills this winter, so entire Amish communities are working from the crack of dawn to finish. These fine real wood Amish made fireplace mantles are built to last forever. The oak mantle is a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars because all those who beat the order deadline by calling the National Hotline at 1-866-874-7770 to order the fireplace mantles are actually getting the imported hi-tech *Fireless Flame* HEAT SURGE miracle heaters for free.

just plug them in.

The *Fireless Flame* looks so real it amazes everybody because it has no real fire. So what's the catch? Well, soft spoken Amish craftsmen who take their time hand



■ **JUST ANNOUNCED:** The Heat Surge miracle fireplace has earned the prestigious Good Housekeeping Seal. The product has earned the Seal after evaluation by the Good Housekeeping Research Institute.

building the mantles have a process that forces a strict household limit of 2 to keep up with orders.

"We can barely keep up ever since we started giving heaters away free. With winter just around the corner, everyone's trying to get them. Amish craftsmen are working their fingers to the bone to be sure everyone gets their delivery in time for Christmas," confirms Frederick Miller, National Shipping Director.

"These portable Roll-n-Glow Fireplaces are the latest home decorating sensation. They actually give you a beautifully redecorated room while they quickly heat from wall to wall. It's the best way to dress up every room, stay really warm and slash your

heat bills all at the same time," says Josette Holland, Home Makeover Expert.

And here's the best part. Readers who beat the 7-day order deadline are getting their imported hi-tech miracle heaters free when encased in the Amish built real wood fireplace mantles. The mantles are being handmade in the USA right in the heart of Amish country where they are beautifully hand-rubbed, stained and varnished.

You just can't find custom made Amish mantles like this in the national chain stores. That makes the oak mantle a real steal for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars since the entire cost of the miracle heater is free.

This free giveaway is the best way to slash heating

## HEAT SURGE™ Fireless Flame™

**How It Works:** The HEAT SURGE miracle heater is a work of engineering genius from the China coast so advanced, you simply plug it into any standard outlet. It uses only about 9¢ of electric an hour on the standard setting. Yet, it produces up to an amazing 5,119 BTU's on the high setting. So watch out, a powerful on board hi-tech heat turbine silently forces hot air out into the room from the vent so you feel the bone soothing heat instantly. It even has certification of Underwriters Laboratories coveted UL listing. It also comes with a limited full year replacement or money back warranty less shipping plus a 30-Day Satisfaction Guarantee. OH and FL resident transactions require the remittance of applicable sales tax. Sorry no shipments to MA residents.



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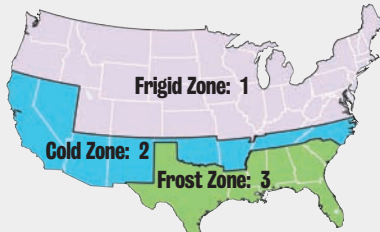
**The hi-tech silent heat turbine takes in cold air**

# How to get 2 free heaters

The National Toll Free Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 7-day order deadline to cover the cost of the Amish made Fireplace Mantle and shipping get the HEAT SURGE miracle heater free.

A strict limit of 2 per household has been imposed. Since some home woodworkers want to build their own mantle piece, they are letting people get the imported miracle heater alone for just \$249. Or, with the Amish made mantle you get the miracle heater free.

Use the map below to locate the weather zone you live in and call the Hotline number for your zone.



**Claim Code: FP10666**

**EVERYONE LIVING IN THE**

**Frigid Zone: 1**

**START CALLING AT  
8:00 A.M. TODAY**

**1-866-874-7770**

**EVERYONE LIVING IN THE**

**Cold Zone: 2**

**START CALLING AT  
8:30 A.M. TODAY**

**1-866-881-2882**

**EVERYONE LIVING IN THE**

**Frost Zone: 3**

**START CALLING AT  
9:00 A.M. TODAY**

**1-866-882-8558**

FOR HEAT SURGE, LLC 8000 FREEDOM AVE., N. CANTON OH 44720

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**■ ON THEIR WAY:** Christmas orders have turned country roads into pipelines to the big city delivery system. Everybody wants a fireplace that comes fully assembled with a handmade Amish mantle in oak or cherry finish and gets delivered by truck right to your door. All you do is plug it in.

bills and stay warm this fall and winter. The HEAT SURGE Roll-n-Glow Fireplace gives you zone heating and all the beauty and warmth of a built-in fireplace but rolls from room-to-room so it can also save you a ton of money on heating bills.

Even people in California and Florida are flocking to get them so they may never have to turn on their furnace all winter. And since it uses

only about 9 cents of electric an hour on the standard setting, the potential savings are absolutely incredible.

"We are making sure no one gets left out, but you better hurry because entire communities of Amish craftsmen are straining to keep up with demands. For now, we are staying out of the large national retail stores in order to let readers have two per household just as long as they call before the deadline," con-

firms Miller.

It's a really smart decision to get two right now because for only the next 7 days you get both miracle heaters free. That's like putting five hundred bucks right in your pocket and you can save even more money on your monthly heating bills.

"Everyone's calling to get one but those who are getting their Christmas shopping done are surprising the whole family by getting

two. So when lines are busy keep trying or log onto [amishfireplaces.com](http://amishfireplaces.com). We promise to get to every call. Then we can have a delivery truck out to your door right away with your beautiful Heat Surge Roll-n-Glow Fireplace," Miller said.

"You'll instantly feel bone soothing heat in any room. You will never have to be cold again," he said. ■

On the worldwide web:  
[www.amishfireplaces.com](http://www.amishfireplaces.com)

***Rolls anywhere to throw an instant heat wave with no chimney, no vents, no wood and no smoke***



**■ EASILY ROLLS ANYWHERE:** This is the portable Roll-n-Glow® Fireplace that easily rolls from bedroom to living room to keep you warm. No vents, no chimney and no tools. Just plug it in.



**■ SAVES ON BILLS:** Everyone can get low bills and stay warm and cozy. The Roll-n-Glow Fireplace saves a ton of money and makes your front room look like a million bucks.



**■ SAFE FLAME:** The Fireless Flame looks so real it fools everyone but there is no real fire. That makes the flame window safe to the touch under the watchful eye of a parent. It's where the kids will play and the cat and dog will sleep.



**■ FREE:** Get this \$249 miracle heater free. It is being given away free to all who beat the 7-day order deadline for your choice of the oak or cherry finish Amish Mantles. The free heater comes already encased.

# WORLD WAR 2.0



## **The Pentagon, U.S. infrastructure are more vulnerable than you think.**

**BY ALAN W. DOWD**

What if America's enemies were probing the Pentagon for weaknesses, sabotaging the government's ability to protect the country, stealing sensitive information and even planting time bombs that could cripple the country? Most of us would say the United States is under attack.

Whatever we call it, something not too dissimilar is happening in cyberspace, as a disparate collection of individuals, groups and foreign governments take aim at the nation's information infrastructure.

Some argue that attacks in cyberspace aren't really a threat to national security. They're wrong. Just ask our friends in Estonia, Georgia and Israel – or consider the Pentagon's 2008 report on China, which concluded that Beijing views cyberspace as an arena for "non-contact warfare" and aims to conduct "cyberwarfare against civilian and military networks – especially against communications and logistics nodes."

The head of the U.N. agency on information technology fears that "the next world war could happen in cyberspace." In fact, it may already be under way.

**REHEARSALS?** Estonia weathered what some call "Web War I" in 2007, when Russian nationalists unleashed a volley of "distributed denial of service" attacks that crashed networks across the country. The attacks targeted key government Web sites, newspapers, the mobile-phone network, the country's 911 equivalent and the country's largest bank.

The cyber-salvos hit Estonia especially hard because the tiny Baltic country – dubbed "e-Stonia" – is one of the most Web-dependent places on earth.

"It turned out to be a national-security situation," Estonian defense minister Jaak Aaviksoo later reported.

That helps explain why Estonian president


Toomas Hendrik Ilves has suggested that NATO may need to upgrade its 20th-century defense commitments in light of this 21st-century threat. "Cyberattacks are a form of offensive action that can paralyze, weaken, harm a nation-state," he argues, ominously adding, "This might be a test run for something bigger and larger."

NATO has since formed a center to help member states "defy and successfully counter" cyberattacks.

A year after Estonia, Russian cyber-militiamen launched a digital invasion ahead of the Russian military's ground invasion of Georgia, crippling the Web sites of the foreign ministry, defense ministry and presidential office – and hijacking several government servers.

In 2009, after the Israeli military struck terror targets in Gaza, hackers from the former Soviet Union – bankrolled by Hezbollah and Hamas – carried out cyberattacks against Israel. As the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported, "The Home Front Command's site, which instructs citizens how to protect themselves from attacks, was down for three hours."

Russia is not the only culprit.




**The Landing Zone**  
with Alan Dowd

**UAVs change the way we wage war**

Unmanned aerial vehicles are so much a part of U.S. strategy in the Afghanistan-Pakistan theater that it has been dubbed a "drone war."

**Read more online.**

 [www.legion.org/landingzone](http://www.legion.org/landingzone)

**“Maintaining freedom of action in cyberspace in the 21st century is as inherent to U.S. interests as freedom of the seas was in the 19th century, and access to air and space in the 20th century.”**

**Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander,  
commander of the newly formed Cyber Command**

“China is very aggressive in the cyber-world,” Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said.

■ The British Foreign Office was victimized by Chinese cyber-attacks in 2007.

■ Germany blames hackers linked to the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) for massive cyberattacks against the chancellery and foreign ministry. One German official even used the phrase “Chinese cyberwar” in describing the attacks.

■ In 2007, the Pentagon was forced to disable computer systems serving the Office of Secretary of Defense, after it was discovered that the PLA had hacked into the system.

■ The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (ERSC) reports that Chinese hackers have planted computer components with codes that could be activated to steal or destroy data; penetrated computer systems at U.S. defense firms, the White House, State Department and NASA; and attacked government ministries in Europe, Japan, India, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia and dozens of other countries.

■ In a six-month period from late 2008 through early 2009, the Pentagon spent \$100 million repairing damage from cyberattacks.

**RISKS.** In short, “America is under widespread attack in cyberspace,” as Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, reported in 2007. America’s “freedom to use cyberspace is threatened by the actions of criminals, terrorists and nations alike,” he says.

That presents a problem, because, as Gen. Kevin Chilton, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, explains, “Freedom of action in cyberspace is essential to both war fighting and our national security.”

For example, the ESRC concludes that in the event of conflict, Beijing would target certain Pentagon networks “to delay U.S. deployments and impact combat effectiveness of troops already in theater.”

Equally worrisome, the U.S. physical infrastructure – the electrical grid, water-treatment facilities,

air-traffic control system, transportation arteries – that depends on cyberspace is at risk. With a few keystrokes, someone could throw America’s high-tech society back to pre-industrial days.

Before scoffing at that possibility, consider this: the British government worries that utilities-network upgrades carried out by the Chinese telecom firm Huawei may have given Beijing the ability to shut down essential services, including power and water supplies.

Similarly, *The Wall Street Journal* has reported on “pervasive” penetration of the U.S. electrical grid, whereby malicious software and sleeper switches have been implanted to allow China or Russia to disrupt service at a time of their choosing.

We don’t have to imagine the impact of a grid attack. Consider the 2003 East Coast blackout, which affected 50 million people. New York, Detroit and Toronto went dark. Nine nuclear reactors were knocked offline. Six major airports were shut down. Hospitals lost power. And none of this was the result of a malicious attack.

Chinese officials claim they oppose “any crime, including hacking, that destroys the Internet.” Yet Beijing tacitly encourages hundreds of quasi-independent hacker teams and even trains some at Chinese military bases. In fact, the Pentagon concluded in 2007 that “the PLA has established information warfare units to develop viruses to attack enemy computer systems and networks.”

Former NATO commander Wesley Clark and Peter Levin, chief technology officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs, worry that Americans have succumbed to “the self-delusion that since nothing terrible has happened to the country’s IT infrastructure, nothing will.”

But if the electrical grid can fail by mistake, it can happen by design. And if a military cyber-attack can happen in Estonia, Georgia or Israel, it can certainly happen here.

**NERVOUS SYSTEMS.** “Maintaining freedom of action in cyberspace in the 21st century is as inherent to U.S. interests as freedom of the seas was in the 19th century, and access to air and space in the 20th century,” says Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander, commander of the newly formed Cyber Command. Yet as Cartwright has warned, “We lack dominance in cyberspace and could grow increasingly vulnerable if we do not fundamentally change how we view this battle-space.”

Toward that end, Washington should borrow a page from the early days of the Cold War, when U.S. leaders helped define the rules of the road for

the atomic age: they built a military that could fight and win in an era of nukes, ICBMs and supersonic jets; formed a web of international partnerships and alliances; developed continuity of government plans to ensure the survival of the republic; and made it clear that the United States would respond with “massive retaliation” in the event of war.

In the same way, a cyber-defense doctrine could help bring order to the wild frontiers of cyberspace. And as Blair has suggested, “developing codes of conduct for cyberspace” could play an important part in maintaining America’s ability to shape events.

The good news is that Washington has laid the foundations for such a doctrine, albeit in a piecemeal manner.

President George W. Bush, who called cyberspace “the nervous system” of America’s critical infrastructure, launched the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative. The CNCI garnered bipartisan support, committed some \$30 billion to strengthening government networks, and features defensive and offensive elements. Bush also initiated a series of readiness exercises under the Department of Homeland Security. These “Cyber Storm” exercises enfold the private sector, federal and state agencies, and allied governments. Cyber Storm III, scheduled for this year, will reportedly test power grids and transportation arteries.

President Barack Obama has built on his predecessor’s efforts. Declaring cyber-borne threats among “the most serious economic and national security challenges we face,” Obama created a White House office to coordinate cybersecurity. He also has launched a “cybersecurity awareness” campaign and pledged to improve coordination between and among agencies, states and the private sector “to ensure an organized and unified response to future cyber incidents.”

The bad news is that “the architecture of the nation’s digital infrastructure,” according to the 2009 National Intelligence Strategy, “is neither secure nor resilient.” And America’s enemies know it.

Washington is taking steps to correct this. DHS recently began hiring 1,000 new cyber-security experts. Plus, the Pentagon is establishing Cyber Command as a part of Strategic Command.

A key mission of the new command will be to deter the enemy. “Deterrence can be partially achieved through the creation and maintenance of a cyberforce capable of freely operating within cyberspace,” Alexander explains.

To assist the warfighters in their deterrence mission, it may be helpful for the policymakers to let it be known that the United States will view a cyberattack on critical infrastructure in the same way as a traditional military attack. It’s worth noting that Russian military officials argue that “the use of information warfare against Russia or its armed forces will categorically not be considered a non-military phase of a conflict, whether there were casualties or not.”

For those times when deterrence fails, the United States must be able and willing to go on the offensive. Alexander envisions an approach to cybersecurity that puts “defense and offense together.” Chilton notes that the military “will need to fight through attacks and ensure we can continue to operate in cyberspace in at least an adequate fashion.”

**“We lack dominance in cyberspace and could grow increasingly vulnerable if we do not fundamentally change how we view this battle-space.”**

**Gen. James Cartwright,  
vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs**

In addition, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement will need to trace and, where applicable, establish links between nation-states and cyberattacks emanating from their territory. Even if independent actors are responsible for a cyberattack, they still operate within a country – and governments are obligated to police what happens in their corner of cyberspace.

Washington might also consider a “no first use” pledge for cyberspace with any government that promises the same, keeping in mind that in the digital world, as in the real world, actions speak louder than words.

Finally, the United States should explore the feasibility of developing new redundancies – or dusting off old ones – that don’t depend on cyberspace. It pays to recall that not long ago we delivered essential services – we even defended the nation – without the Internet. 🌿

*Alan W. Dowd is a contributing editor for The American Legion Magazine. He writes on defense and security issues.*

# PEACHES AND POUND CAKE

*From Vietnam to Iraq, the human bond of combat duty is timeless.*

**BY RETIRED MAJ. GEN. ROBERT H. SCALES, U.S. ARMY**

**L**et me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you, I didn't kill innocents; I killed the enemy. I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy; I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you, I was troubled that – unlike my father – I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also, like you, I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and 1 percent pure, abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all, our fellow citizens would imagine that 50 years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Today, however, it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why. If this war was so terrible, why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, 50 years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War I was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought. From Marathon to Mosul, young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospect of killing another human being heighten the senses, sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls, and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam, we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneli-

ness, success or failure. But our experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For whatever primal reason, war heightens the senses. When in combat, we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night, marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was, how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimmy Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of "incoming"? Remember, it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments.

Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead?

I remember the touch – the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience.

Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C-rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be





*Three U.S. soldiers eat C-rations out in the field, Vietnam, 1966. Corbis/Bettmann*

would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures. Those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can.

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self-improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on post-traumatic stress disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us. They call it post-traumatic growth.

We know that a near-death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self-reliance, resilience, self-image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly, Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human, not a technological, endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people, and that the ultimate weapon in this

allowed to turn the C-ration cases over, so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side, hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, 40 years on, I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who, in an incredibly lame moment, thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, "Life is like a case of C-rations: you never know what you're going to get." Because for every box of ham and lima beans, there was that rapturous moment when you

kind or war is a superbly trained, motivated and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit, I've seen firsthand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago. The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment, and it all comes rushing back.

In Afghanistan, I watched soldiers from my old unit, the 101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from fire bases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day, these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose, as one sergeant put it, "to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can." Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often, they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely fire bases, as we dug through C-ration boxes and drank hot beer, we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon – or Ho Chi Minh, for that matter.

Some of us might have trusted our leaders, or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home, or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service, but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism, or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war, young soldiers think about their buddies.

They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part, the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of political "blue bloods." We were, in large measure, volunteers and draftees from middle and lower-class America. Just as in Iraq today, we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military, but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinship we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day, we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a fire base to open a case of C-rations, with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves.

I believe in my very soul that the Almighty reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual campfire, where someday we can meet and embrace all of the band of brothers throughout the ages, to tell our stories while envious bystanders watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there, thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice. God bless you all, and God bless this great nation. 🌿

*Retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert H. Scales delivered this message at the Harry S Truman Library & Museum in Independence, Mo., on Sept. 12, 2009.*

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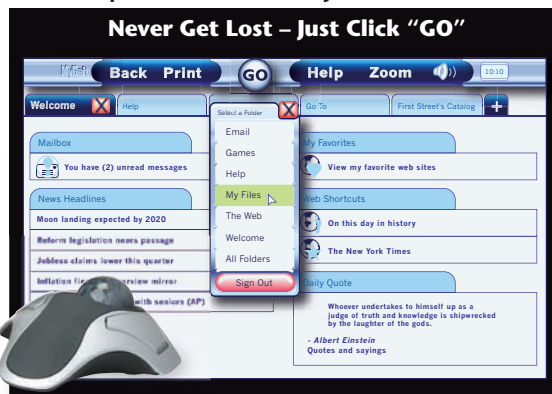
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# Bill Crazy

*Congressional hearing highlights one of VA's low points: collections for health-care services.*

BY KEN OLSEN

Two years ago, retired veteran Danny C. Varnadore noticed VA was charging his private insurance company for treating a spine problem he acquired during his Navy career. He called the VA medical center in St. Petersburg, Fla., to point out the billing error and was rebuffed.

"I told the guy on the phone that my insurance had been charged several times for service-connected treatment and that I didn't think it was right," says Varnadore, who has a 70-percent VA disability rating. "His response was, 'We do it because we can.' I thought that was rather rude."

Not only was it rude, it was wrong. VA is not allowed to bill either veterans or their insurance companies for service-connected medical care. But thousands of veterans are improperly charged for their VA treatment for a variety of reasons, including an error-prone billing system and a lack of management oversight, according to testimony by The American Legion and other veterans service organizations before the House Veterans Affairs' Health Subcommittee last fall.

The problem goes well beyond erroneous "third-party billing" – as charges to Medicare, TRICARE and private insurance are called. VA also is directly billing thousands of veterans for their service-connected health care, even though it is obligated to provide such treatment at no cost.

At the same time, veterans with non-service-connected medical issues often receive multiple bills for a single visit to VA and, in some cases, are charged for care they never receive. And veterans often find a portion of their disability check withheld if they don't pay the inappropriate bill, veterans service organization representatives told Congress.

"The American Legion is deeply concerned about this critical situation," Denise Williams, assistant director of health policy for The American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division, told the subcommittee. She called on Congress to join the Legion in investigating and resolving the errors.

Veterans who try to correct the billing problems sometimes find themselves saddled with long and frustrating fights, said Fred Cowell of Paralyzed Veterans of America. He says it can take six to eight months to get a single erroneous bill corrected – if it gets corrected at all.

Consider the plight of one veteran injured in Iraq. VA charged him for treating a pressure ulcer on his buttocks, despite his 100-percent disability rating and the clear connection between spinal injuries and pressure ulcers. The veteran's VA doctor took up the erroneous charges with VA's billing office; he was told the bill was justified because the veteran's VA disability rating didn't include the pressure ulcer. The doctor also was told that the veteran would have to file a new disability claim with VA if he wanted the pressure ulcer treatment to be covered.

"If VA thinks it has a problem with the claims backlog now, we can only imagine what the backlog will look like if all veterans experiencing this problem go back to the Veterans Benefits Administration for consideration of something that will almost certainly be granted months later," Cowell said. Meanwhile, front-line health-care workers are helping to resolve billing errors that could be made while treating patients.

Such episodes are not anomalies; inappropriate billing is a widespread problem, the veterans groups testified. Veterans service organizations

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have told congressional committees they are concerned that billing errors will become worse as VA increasingly relies on third-party billing to pay a portion of its costs.

"VA is not supposed to be a for-profit health provider, but is perceived to be such by our veterans," said Adrian Atizado of Disabled American Veterans. And those who have served worry that financial pressures at local VA facilities "may encourage or contribute to inappropriate billing."

**Missed Millions.** VA has other billing problems that are simultaneously costing it – and taxpayers – a considerable sum. VA is failing to collect millions of dollars from insurance companies that it is legitimately owed, according to an official from the Government Accountability Office who testified during the same congressional hearing in October. VA is also losing money because of lengthy billing delays.

A GAO analysis of billing practices at 18 VA medical centers "found excessive average days to bill, coding and billing errors, and a lack of management oversight, which raised questions about why \$1.7 billion was not billed to third-party insurers at the 18 locations we reviewed," Kay L. Daly, GAO director of financial management and assurance, told Congress. "It is important that coding for medical services is accurate and timely because insurers will not accept improperly coded bills." In addition, many insurers are not required to pay VA if they don't receive accurate bills in a timely fashion – usually within six months to a year of treatment.

Another GAO analysis found that, throughout VA, the agency failed to make initial follow-up calls on outstanding bills for medical treatment

69 percent of the time, which contributes to uncollected reimbursement for medical care.

That startling number drew sharp attention from Rep. Michael Michaud, D-Maine, chairman of the subcommittee. "I'd like to see the error rate at the local level," he said. "I'm concerned with how much weight you are putting on the problem."

**Problems in Hand.** VA acknowledges it has plans to recover more money from insurance companies and patients alike for health care that is not connected to military service. But the agency says it is working to make sure such collections are done accurately. VA has taken several steps over the past five years to dramatically reduce its billing errors. This includes hiring more qualified billing coders, comprehensive training, creating a detailed employee handbook with guidelines on billing issues, as well as using better computer systems.

"VA has a number of mechanisms that have been put in place to ensure veterans and their third-party health insurers are charged appropriately," Baker said. At the same time, VA believes some veterans are confused about the types of medical care covered by their benefits. And when they aren't, VA staff are required to make sure that insurance companies are billed.

VA officials are committed to getting it right.

"Should a veteran receive a bill that appears to be in error, VA encourages the veteran to contact the local medical center revenue staff, who will review the bill with the veteran and help to reconcile the issue," Baker said.

Danny Varnadore is skeptical, after the response he received at the St. Petersburg VA Medical Center.

"There's probably a lot more of it going on than people know," he said. "And once the government starts to do things, it's hard to get them to stop." 🌿

*Ken Olsen is a freelance writer and frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.*

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## H. Weir Cook

**World War I air ace also pioneered commercial aviation.**

Musing about aviation in 1928, Col. H. Weir Cook predicted that the skies of America's future would carry large airliners through the night, filled with sleeping passengers.

A World War I air ace who flew with Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's "Hat in the Ring" Squadron, Cook's love of aviation propelled him into the national arena as a leading advocate of commercial air transportation.

An active member of The American Legion, Cook served for nine years on its National Aeronautics Commission (first as director, then as vice chairman). He also became the Legion's first national director of aviation.

Involved with the development of the U.S. Army's first dive-bombing site, Cook promoted the airplane's military potential, and was part of the officer group that fell out of favor with the Army during the court-martial of Col. Billy Mitchell.

We all know that the Wright Brothers flew the first powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903. But back in Cook's time, the authenticity of that event was still being contested. For years, Cook lobbied the Smithsonian Institution to officially recognize the Wright Brothers' achievement; he won that battle in 1940.

Two World War I air aces, Cook and Rickenbacker, served on The American Legion's National Aeronautics Commission at the same time. At a Jan. 16, 1933, meeting of the commission, Chairman Rickenbacker said, "Since the committee as a whole is in accord as to the need and necessity of a director who will give his full time to the activities of this committee, I think it becoming and proper that we hear from Capt. Cook, who, I assume, all the members of the committee automatically feel would be the logical man to follow through and do this job."

Capt. Cook: "I don't believe I have any ideas radically different from those expressed. As I see it, the big work of the committee is a great public service, and that is a point which appeals to me as the basic idea to get over with everyone – to do a great public service from the standpoint of national defense and the general aviation development, and to be of service to The American Legion."

After the Pearl Harbor attack, Cook pressed the Army for a combat assignment. He got his wish, but died when his P-39 Airacobra slammed into a cloud-covered mountainside.

He could have sat out World War II. But the colonel loved flying – and his country – too much to sit the war out at home.

– Philip M. Callaghan



### The dossier

Born to parents Benjamin and Laura in Wilkinson, Ind., June 30, 1892.

Attended DePauw, Washington and Jefferson universities.

Joined Air Service of Army Signal Corps in 1917.

Flew with 94th Aero Squadron and shot down seven enemy aircraft. Awarded Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf clusters.

Helped develop U.S. Air Mail Service and, in 1928, became vice president and general manager of Curtis Flying Service of Indiana.

Played key role in development and construction of Indianapolis Municipal Airport (opened in 1931).

Recalled to active duty in National Guard in January 1941. Promoted colonel in June 1942.

Led the 361st Air Base Squadron in the South Pacific. Killed in plane crash March 24, 1943.

Buried at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Section O, Grave 440.



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[HISTORY]

# BEYOND ★ ALL BOUNDARIES

**National World War II Museum in New Orleans adds three big attractions that engage all the senses.**

## 1 Solomon Victory Theater

Dr. Gordon “Nick” Mueller knew he didn’t want any ordinary movie for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. As president and CEO, he longed for visitors to be immersed in the war’s epic story – to *experience* it.

And they do in “Beyond All Boundaries,” a 4-D attraction narrated by actor Tom Hanks and produced by Phil Hettema that opened Nov. 6. As visitors wait to enter Victory Theater, a sober prologue totals the lives claimed by World War II: 65 million, including 418,500 Americans. Audiences then enter an auditorium specially constructed for the show, which uses every inch of a 120-foot-wide screen and more to make viewers feel they are actually in the war. A large vintage radio broadcasts news of the attack at Pearl Harbor. A B-17 nose cone descends from the ceiling during a

bombing sequence. An anti-aircraft gun rotates and appears to fire above the crowd. A 25-foot guard tower goes up from a pit below the stage. Six “Dragons Teeth” tank traps appear during D-Day. Even the environment changes: steam rises from Guadalcanal, and snow falls in the Battle of the Bulge.

“Beyond All Boundaries” illustrates the global reach of World War II, crisscrossing a blue-green earth, going from battle to battle. The whistle of bullets and crackle of flames are enhanced by full surround-sound. Vibrating seats add to the roar and rumble of tanks at the Kasserine Pass. Near the end, a flash of bright light fills the theater to portray the atomic blast at Hiroshima.

Punctuating the action are the words of Americans who fought the war and worked on the home front: Pvt. Ira

## 2 The Stage Door Canteen

At one of the National World War II Museum’s newest venues, visitors go back in time to the 1940s, when the era’s biggest stars – Bing Crosby, Lauren Bacall and others – entertained men in uniform at Stage Door Canteens at home and abroad.

“Let Freedom Swing!” is an eight-person revue bursting with period costumes and music, including “Rosie the Riveter,” “The Son-of-a-Gun Who Picked On Uncle Sam” and “I’ve Got a Girl in Kalamazoo.” Next door to Chef John Besh’s restaurant, the Stage Door Canteen has Friday and Saturday evening shows and a Sunday matinee. Tickets are \$30, with brunch and a show for \$55 or dinner and a show for \$75.

Gary Solomon, president and executive producer of Solomon Group Entertainment, told *The American Legion Magazine* about “Let Freedom Swing!”

**Q:** When did the museum approach you about this show?

**A:** By the time we came in a year ago, there was just a movie screen and a small stage up front, and I was like, “Guys, this is perfect for a live entertainment show!” So we started redesigning the venue to accommodate it. Our goal was to create a show that featured the music and the dancing of the era that was accessible to younger folks. There is a film that shows the greatest performances of the canteens, and that’s here during the day. But at night, it’s about live entertainment in the canteen. We said, “Let’s go all the way with it,” and the museum loved the idea.

**Q:** Any worries about keeping a live entertainment show going?

**A:** The Sunday brunch is going to sell out forever. Friday and Saturday nights, there really is no live show like this in the city. Even before Hurricane Katrina, there was no long-running show in New Orleans. We’re known for our food and music, but not for our theater. So this is a new way, I think, of really starting to build a theater industry here.

**Q:** Is the show’s patriotism risky in today’s political climate?

**A:** I think we are unapologetically patriotic with this, but we’re creating a 1944 sense of patriotism, even down to the





Hayes, Fleet Adm. William Halsey, Cpl. James Garrett, Red Cross volunteer Carol Lynn Heggen, Sgt. Bill Mauldin, Lt. Col. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, correspondent Ernie Pyle, and many others. Voicing them are Hollywood's biggest names, including Brad Pitt, James Cromwell, Tobey Maguire, Gary Sinise, Elijah Wood and Patricia Clarkson.

The show ends on a note of triumph, as a field of white stars fills the screen. Americans "knew the difference between right and wrong," the narrator says, "and didn't want to live in a world where wrong prevailed."

"Beyond All Boundaries" has hourly showtimes, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students. [www.victorytheater.org](http://www.victorytheater.org)

48 stars on the flag. There's not 50 up there. So this isn't the patriotism of 2009. I know how I feel – our whole team feels patriotic – but it was a different kind of patriotism then, I think. I've only tapped into it in the last year, researching and learning the period. There was such a united front.

**Q:** As producer, what do you enjoy most about this revue?

**A:** There's a couple of jewels I love, like the fight. If a canteen fight started, the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner." I said, "We've got to have it in there." Fights didn't happen often, but when they did, that's how they controlled it. We've got little touches of education in there, too. If you don't know about rationing, if you don't know about buying bonds, there's a little educating through the entertainment.

**Q:** How does the Canteen complement the museum?

**A:** I think of this as a truly living exhibit. It's a tribute to the original canteens and all the entertainers who gave their time and their talents to boost the morale of our troops. The museum's mission is to bring the story of World War II to life for younger generations. In the same way "Beyond All Boundaries" causes you feel the rumble of the front lines or the cold desperation of the Battle of the Bulge, this show brings to life that same spirit our troops felt in the '40s.

### 3 The American Sector

The National World War II Museum's new restaurant is the sixth of Chef John Besh, who has created a '40s-inspired menu for museum visitors and New Orleans' business-lunch crowd alike. The American Sector serves up favorites such as spaghetti and meatballs, meatloaf, Sloppy Joes and chicken fried steak – even homemade tomato soup in vintage tin cans. The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

A Desert Storm veteran, Besh talked to *The American Legion Magazine* about his time in the Marine Corps and his inspiration for The American Sector.



**Q:** Describe your time as a Marine.

**A:** I enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school. I knew I wanted to be a chef but wasn't prepared to leap right into that. I wanted to serve my country and do it as a Marine Corps grunt, for lack of a better term. My father was a fighter pilot. I thought I wanted to go that route. I went into the reserves and started college in upstate New York at the Culinary Institute of America, and just before finishing that was activated and shipped off to Kuwait. I served with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during the Gulf War and was a squad leader.

**Q:** How did you end up collaborating with the National World War II Museum?

**A:** Various generals and other Marines who wouldn't have known who I was way back when, I've entertained them in my restaurants and gotten to know them, and built a lot of great relationships through the business. They came to me and asked if I'd be interested in working with them on this project, and I couldn't pass up that challenge. It's an honor to be a steward of this incredible institution, which I think is a national treasure.

**Q:** Why call the restaurant *The American Sector*?

**A:** The name actually comes from the name of this neighborhood after the Louisiana Purchase. This was the first footprint the Americans actually had in the city of New Orleans.

**Q:** What inspired your menu?

**A:** The menu is inspired by 1940s-era menus and the stage-door canteens all around the world. I looked at historic New Orleans menus of that era and meshed the two ideas together. I also looked to my children for inspiration because this is a family destination. We want generations of families to come here and experience the museum. We're trying to bridge the old with the new. It's a great addition to the neighborhood, to the museum, and to the city as a whole.

## ACTIVE DUTY

“So as we grieve as an Army family, as we wrap our arms around the families of our fallen comrades, I would say to you all: grieve with us, don’t grieve for us. Those who have fallen did so in the service of their country. They freely answered the call to serve, and they gave their lives for something that they loved and believed in.”

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey, at a service memorializing the 13 Americans – including 12 soldiers – slain in a shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, on Nov. 5



An unidentified boy, left, salutes with others during a memorial service at Fort Hood, Texas. AP

Quilters sponsored by Post 387 in Plymouth, Wis., sent 45 Camo Quilts to soldiers at Fort Hood in honor of Sgt. Amy Krueger, a Kiel, Wis., native who was killed in the attack. **Watch the video online** [www.legion.org/legiontv](http://www.legion.org/legiontv)

## [NATION]

## By the numbers

The percentage of Americans who express confidence in the following entities:

**82** the U.S. military

**67** small business

**59** the police

**51** the presidency

**39** the Supreme Court

**36** the medical system

**25** newspapers

**23** television news

**22** banks

**17** Congress

Source: Gallup

## [WAR ON TERROR]

## PACKING UP

Some 20,000 U.S. troops have been assigned to the drawdown and withdrawal operation now under way in Iraq. As *The New York Times* reports, that’s one-sixth of the troops deployed in Iraq. This army within an army is tasked with breaking down 300 bases and shipping “1.5 million pieces of equipment, from tanks to coffeemakers.”

Given that the drawdown operation is occurring while security operations are ongoing – and that some 50,000 U.S. troops will remain in Iraq – Brig. Gen. Paul Wentz describes it as “a real Rubik’s Cube.”

Some of the war-fighting materiel is headed for Afghanistan, some for the United States and some to the Iraqis. The *Times* reports that panels of U.S. and Iraqi officials help determine how and where to divvy up the equipment.

## [LEGACY RUN]

## Kansas Legionnaires give big

Of the \$550,000 generated by last August’s Legacy Run, \$57,000 came from The American Legion Department of Kansas. Of that, \$49,000 was directly raised by the Kansas American Legion Riders.

Now at \$3 million, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund provides scholarship money for the children of U.S. military personnel who died on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.



Jerick Johnson proudly displays his Rookie of the Year trophy atop The American Legion/David Law Firm 76 Freedom Car. James V. Carroll

#### [AMERICAN LEGION RACING]

## Freedom Car driver captures rookie points title

Jerick Johnson, driver of The American Legion/David Law Firm 76 Freedom Car, captured the American Speed Association Late Model Challenge rookie points trophy at Memphis Motorsports Park near Millington, Tenn., Nov. 7. Johnson, who finished 10th in the race, beat out fellow contender Billie Crane.

Johnson credited Crane and his crew. "It would have been easy to give up, but Crane and his team wouldn't quit. It wasn't until Crane spun his car around in the front stretch, in the final laps, that I realized the rookie title was there for the taking."

Johnson avoided some near-misses in the race, which finished under the yellow caution flag due to darkness. He narrowly escaped a race-ending crash when a two-car collision sent him scrambling for a path through the melee. He clipped his front right fender as his escape route closed. The flapping fender forced Johnson to make several short pit stops for repair.

When the checkered flag came up at the 300-lap race, Johnson's 10th-place performance elevated him to ninth in the overall series standings.

ASA will conduct its annual awards ceremony in Indianapolis on Jan. 16. Johnson said he plans to display his Rookie Championship trophy at The American Legion National Headquarters and at the David Law Firm in Houston before finding it a permanent home.

#### [MEMBERSHIP]

## NEW POSTS

**Jordan Park Post 777, West Des Moines, Iowa:**  
Chartered Nov. 9  
(15 members)

**Post 60, Pine Bluffs, Wyo.:**  
Chartered Nov. 9 (17 members)

**Post 196, Myrtle Beach, S.C.:**  
Chartered Nov. 9 (27 members)

**West Ashley Post 208, Charleston, S.C.:** Chartered Nov. 9 (26 members)

**Ford-Mosley Post 474, Tyler, Texas:**  
Chartered Nov. 3  
(15 members)

**Post 58, Dublin, Va.:**  
Chartered Nov. 3 (19 members)

**Post 36, Altavista, Va.:**  
Chartered Oct. 7 (20 members)

**Waterloo Wonders Memorial Post 806, Aid, Ohio:**  
Chartered Oct. 7 (45 members)

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## [VERBATIM]

**“This is all about control of the individual, and you begin to wonder whether this is what the green agenda has always been about. It’s Orwellian.”**

**Ruth Lea**, an economist from Arbuthnot Banking Group, on a proposal by the head of Britain’s Environmental Agency to give each individual a “carbon allowance” to help cut greenhouse gas emissions

**“Don’t ask, don’t tell’ was always going to be part of the military authorization ... The administration is totally committed to this and has been from the beginning.”**

**U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.**, on plans to include a repeal of the 1993 ban on homosexuals serving openly in the U.S. military in the Department of Defense authorization bill

**“That night, you couldn’t stop people. They lifted the barrier, and everyone poured through. We saw it first on TV. Normally it was very quiet up here, but that night we could hear the footsteps of those crossing, tap, tap, tap.”**

**Uwe Kross**, 65, on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, recalling the unexpected announcement that East Germany was easing travel restrictions

**“We’ve got to give this stuff back. This guy’s military!”**

**A Milwaukee man** who attempted to rob a 21-year-old college student, but declined once he saw the student’s military ID

Sources: Telegraph, The Advocate, AP

## [NATIONAL SECURITY]

## Government, in the event of crisis

In testimony before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, the American Enterprise Institute’s John Fortier recently warned that the U.S. government remains ill-prepared for ensuring the continuity of Congress after a catastrophic attack.


Noting that the Senate could reconstitute itself thanks to gubernatorial-appointive powers, Fortier urges Congress to set in place a way to fill House vacancies in the event of attack. As it stands now, “The Constitution provides only one way for House vacancies to be filled: special elections. When a House vacancy occurs, the seat remains vacant, typically for several months, as the state conducts a special election to fill the vacancy .... In the case of a catastrophic attack with hundreds of members killed, the House itself would not be able to reconstitute itself for months.” In addition, Fortier notes, “There would also be

a serious question whether the House could conduct any business because it would be short of its constitutional quorum requirement of a majority of the body.”

This could force some future president to “act unilaterally without the check of the Congress,” undermining the legitimacy of presidential decisions in a time of crisis.

The solution, say Fortier and other members of a commission that explored the issue, is “a constitutional amendment that would apply to extraordinary circumstances when there were large numbers of members dead or incapacitated. This constitutional amendment would allow for temporary appointments to be made to fill vacant seats until special elections could be held.”

He notes that governors could make the appointments and could even do so from a list of successors supplied by each member of Congress.

 Find out more online:

<http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/pdf/Fortier090723.pdf>

[www.continuityofgovernment.org](http://www.continuityofgovernment.org)

## [FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

## Freedom’s voice

An unsung hero in America’s long struggle to promote freedom overseas is Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which was born during the Cold War in an effort to deliver information behind the Iron Curtain. Today, RFE/RL and its sister stations broadcast in dozens of countries – from Europe and the former Soviet Union to the Middle East and Asia. Broadcasting in Persian for an Iranian audience, Radio Farda informed average Iranians about Iran’s fraudulent elections and consequent political power struggle, as Jeff Gedmin, president of RFE/RL, recently detailed at [www.foreignaffairs.com](http://www.foreignaffairs.com).

In Afghanistan, Radio Azadi counters the Taliban’s sophisticated and effective information war. “Radio Azadi remains the most popular station in the country,” Gedmin says. In fact, Taliban bombers have contacted Radio Azadi to defect.



[COMMUNITY]

# Habitat for Humanity partners with Legion

Habitat for Humanity has joined with The American Legion to help its members participate in the effort to end substandard housing.

"The Legionnaire's Guide to Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities" gives veterans options to advocate, build, donate and organize in support of Habitat's mission. The toolkit is being sent to American Legion posts and members and is available online at [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

At the 91st National Convention in Louisville, Ky., last August, The American Legion passed a resolution encouraging departments, districts and posts to assist Habitat for Humanity in building or supporting military or veterans housing projects, and department service officers to distribute eligibility criteria throughout states looking for veterans eligible for the housing program.

"The American Legion welcomes the opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity," National Commander Clarence Hill said. "This joint volunteer 'toolkit' will bring American Legion volunteers to Habitat for Humanity build-sites, as well as refer eligible servicemembers and veterans for possible housing opportunities."

Habitat affiliates celebrated Veterans Day by participating in a number of events across the country:

- Habitat for Humanity in Orange County, Calif., built homes in partnership with 14 veterans.
- Seminole Habitat for Humanity of Florida hosted a "blitz build" led by veterans, to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



[VETERANS AFFAIRS]

## Legion praises VA homeless plan

The American Legion welcomed VA's five-year plan to end homelessness among veterans, announced by VA Secretary Eric Shinseki on Nov. 4.

"To have even one veteran out there living in the streets is a disgrace," said National Commander Clarence Hill. "We've been working with VA and Congress on this issue for some time, and Secretary Shinseki's five-year plan is a solid step in the right direction."

On Oct. 21, the Legion testified on the issue before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee; it has also frequently shared its expertise with VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

In October, the Legion called upon Congress to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide more affordable housing for veterans. It seeks to expand the highly successful HUD-VASH program, recommending the allotment of 20,000 vouchers annually and making the program permanent. The Legion also wants Congress to establish a grant program that would assist veterans at risk of becoming homeless.

VA will spend \$3.2 billion next year to prevent and reduce homelessness among veterans, including \$2.7 billion on medical services.

[VOLUNTEERS]

## Legion logs 916,000 volunteer hours with VA

Members of The American Legion who volunteer their time at VA medical centers and related facilities logged more milestones in fiscal 2009. They added 202 new volunteers – increasing their ranks to 6,307 – and donated about 7,000 more hours over last fiscal year, for a grand total of 916,598.

Based on an independent-sector volunteer rate of \$20.25 per hour, all those hours saved VA about \$18.5 million.

Since 1946, The American Legion has actively supported the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). Not only do Legionnaires help out at VA medical centers, they also lend a hand at community-based outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, VA Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and state veterans homes.

Members of American Legion posts volunteer at VA "welcome-home" celebrations to assist returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with their benefits and claims, and to encourage them to volunteer some of their own time. Legionnaires also help with nationwide "stand-downs" that provide health care and other services to homeless veterans.

VAVS is the largest volunteer program in the federal government, providing over 63 years of service to U.S. veterans in VA health-care facilities.

The American Legion is dedicated to improving support for active-duty servicemembers and veterans during their time of transition and rehabilitation, and will continue to provide members with volunteer opportunities to support events on the national, state and local levels.

For more information, go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and visit the Volunteer Services page, or register as a VA volunteer by visiting [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov).

[ACTIVE DUTY]

# USS New York a 'symbol of this city'



USS New York (LPD 21) arrives in New York Harbor, making a symbolic stop near the site of the World Trade Center to honor those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. Amy C. Elliott

## From the World Trade Center wreckage comes a warship like no other

The Nov. 7 commissioning of USS *New York* – whose hull contains 7.5 tons of steel from the wreckage of the World Trade Center – was a special moment for New York City and its residents, especially Legionnaire Sean Powers.

The commander of Post 1870 – housed on the USS *Intrepid* Sea-Air-Space Museum, next to which the *New York* docked – Powers was a member of the New York Police Department on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The same steel I'd walked up to take in a beautiful view of Manhattan, the same steel I crawled through looking for survivors ... it's the same steel that's now going to lead this ship into battle," he said. "I get a little choked up.

"They've turned it into this symbol of this city that we're going to use to bring the fight to those who brought the fight to us."

Johnny Cardona, a deputy inspector and 21-year NYPD member, and a member of Post 1870, said the warship has a special meaning not only to New Yorkers, but to anyone who visits the city.

"It means that after the dust settled, we're still standing," he said. "Hope. Determination. It's a bit of closure for us. Just seeing the ship come in the harbor was unbelievable. I hear it every day – and not just from (New Yorkers), but from tourists. We are the tourist capital of the world, (and) tourists come up to me and say they can't believe the symbol that this ship magnifies. We're proud of it."

Post 1870's Ralph Slane – who helped organize a dinner earlier in the week for 30 Marines serving on the ship – summed up the commissioning's effect on the city. "New York is a part of that ship," he said. "And New York continues to live on through that ship."

– Steve Brooks



Take a video tour of USS *New York*  
[www.legion.org/legiontv](http://www.legion.org/legiontv)

## Legion post arranges private tour of USS New York for wounded troops

Forty-five wounded U.S. servicemembers got a private tour of USS *New York* on Nov. 5, thanks to American Legion Post 1870 and the New York Police Department, working with the Wounded Warrior Project and the Hope for Warriors Project.

"We wanted to roll out the red carpet and do a little more for them," said Legionnaire John Cardona, a 27-year military veteran and NYPD deputy inspector who helped organize the tour.

"Knowing where it came from and where the steel came from, this means a lot to me," said Joseph Perez of Nevada, who left the Army after being injured in 2005. "I live on the West Coast, but 9/11 changed all of our lives. I was a firefighter, and I ended up back in the military again to be where I needed to be. To be on this ship means full circle."

## Legion College '09 graduates make generous donations

The American Legion National College graduated 51 students Oct. 30, making the 2009 class the second-largest group ever. Attendees spent a week at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, learning leadership skills and working to revitalize assigned posts.

Upon arrival, the class split into five groups and spent most of the week developing revitalization plans for failing posts. Assignments included learning about the posts' histories and ascertaining their strengths and weaknesses. At their final session, groups presented a course of action.

Past National Commander and Legion College Chancellor Butch Miller told students to embrace Internet social media and use them to broadcast the Legion's accomplishments to the public. He said Legionnaires everywhere should use tools such as Twitter and Facebook to help the Legion modernize itself and the way it relays its message.

"You are an instrument of that change," Miller said.

National Commander Clarence Hill, a 2001 Legion College graduate, agreed, saying, "I truly believe the future of this organization is on these social-media sites and blogs."

Still, Legionnaires can't ignore in-person membership retention tactics, like developing rapport with new members and making them feel comfortable, National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler said.



"All this high-tech stuff is great, but it's the high-touch stuff that gets the job done," Wheeler said.

This year's Legion College class donated \$512 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Hill passed a hat around during a session, and students contributed what they could.

The group also made a lasting mark by raising nearly \$1,100 for a dialysis center at Indianapolis' Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center. The contribution was used to buy a television and other small items for patients.

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[VA HEALTH CARE]

## VA revises Agent Orange disease list

In early November, the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledged three more diseases as linked to Agent Orange exposure. B-cell leukemias (like hairy cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease are now officially recognized by VA as connected to Agent Orange, an herbicide used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

Since the 1980s, the defoliant has

been associated with acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, chloracne, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, diabetes mellitus (type 2), Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

## RAPID FIRE

[CAREERS]

## The bottom line in writing résumés

Consider the following when writing your résumé:

**Quantifiable results.** Improvements in quality, productivity, efficiency and other performance measures, along

with cost savings, are always impressive. Numbers and percentages are a powerful addition to any résumé.



**Record of strong and steady promotion.** No matter what your career path, if you've been regularly promoted, highlight it. Promotions communicate success and value. If you're already a top performer, the expectation is that you'll continue to be a top performer.

**Project highlights.** If you work on projects, highlighting those projects can add depth and substance to your résumé. Briefly explain the project, your role and the results.

**Visual presentation matters.** Print out your résumé when you're "almost done" and look at its visual impact. Is the right information standing out? Is the page well-balanced? Do you see "widow lines," where the last word of a sentence or a paragraph is on a line by itself? If that happens, edit until you get it up one line. Content is king, but because your résumé will be viewed by humans, it is important to make it visually pleasing and professional.

**Write tight.** Be sure your sentence structure is tight and that you're not using any words that do not add value to the résumé. Use clear, straightforward and specific language that will help your text jump off the page.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions" and "Executive Résumé Toolkit." [www.wendyenelow.com](http://www.wendyenelow.com)

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The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine**, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org) or submit information via our Web site, [www.legion.org/veterans/reunions](http://www.legion.org/veterans/reunions).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine**

will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

### Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine**, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life mem-

berships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine**, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine**, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

### AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

**13th Bomb Sqdn Assn**, Tucson, AZ, 3/10-14, Brian Parker, (979) 776-0207, [btarker13@suddenlink.net](mailto:btarker13@suddenlink.net); **6147th Tact Cont Grp Mosquitos**, Gulfport, MS, 5/10-16, Tony Pascale, (601) 606-8912, [tony\\_pascale@yahoo.com](mailto:tony_pascale@yahoo.com); **865th AAA AW SP Bn (WWII & Korea)**, Temple, TX, 4/22-25, Edwin McCrea, (254) 773-7268, [maryedmcree@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryedmcree@sbcglobal.net); **C 123 (SE Asia)**, Hampton, VA, 5/17-22, Ray Merritt, (757) 851-1305

### ARMY

**173d Abn Bde**, North Myrtle Beach, SC, 6/2-6, Wayne Bowers, (803) 237-3169, [registration@173dreunion2010.com](mailto:registration@173dreunion2010.com); **199th LIB Assn**, Columbus, GA, 6/14-18, Edward

Davis, (856) 854-7103, [edward199@aol.com](mailto:edward199@aol.com); **1st Mil Bn**, Las Vegas, 7/11-18, Don Skinner, (503) 648-6059, [donsk@verizon.net](mailto:donsk@verizon.net); **2nd Bn 47th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Fort Benning, GA, 4/28-5/2, Russ Vibberts, (860) 684-2072, [panther33@hotmail.com](mailto:panther33@hotmail.com); **8th Bn 4th Field Arty**, Colorado Springs, CO, 5/20-24, Eugene Ghio, (925) 376-7937, [ruffdog@pacbell.net](mailto:ruffdog@pacbell.net); **9th Inf Div Society**, Nashville, TN, 5/20-23, Steve Fetty, (270) 257-8619, [sgfetty@aol.com](mailto:sgfetty@aol.com); **47th Inf Rgt**, Columbus, GA, 4/28-5/2, Russell Vibberts, (860) 684-2072, [panther33@hotmail.com](mailto:panther33@hotmail.com); **73rd Tank Bn & 73rd Armd**, Branson, MO, 5/6-9, Curtis Banker, (518) 643-2302, [curt0742@hughes.net](mailto:curt0742@hughes.net); **81st FA 2nd Msl Bn**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 6/18-20, Gerry Rutt, (386) 575-2384, [ruttg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ruttg@bellsouth.net); **99th Sig Bn C Co**, Gainesville, TX, 4/15-18, Vincent

Luciano, (520) 326-3745; **SE Chpt 88th Div Assn & Trust Trp**, Clearwater, FL, 4/21-25 Chuck Haut, (407) 277-4023, [gram7710@aol.com](mailto:gram7710@aol.com); **Vietnam Landclearers Assn**, Branson, MO, 6/10-13, Bill Smart, (815) 703-8613, [bsmart1@hotmail.com](mailto:bsmart1@hotmail.com)

### MARINES

**Iwo Jima Survivors**, Oceanside, CA, 2/18-20, Bob Hansen, (949) 644-4583, [zepeda012@msn.com](mailto:zepeda012@msn.com); **Marines of Long Ago**, Savannah, GA, 4/13-16, Joe Cullen, (203) 877-0846, [aircooledmg7@aol.com](mailto:aircooledmg7@aol.com)

### NAVY

**Buck DD 420/761**, Rapid City, SD, 5/23-27, John Connolly, [buckaneer@suddenlink.net](mailto:buckaneer@suddenlink.net); **Divers Assn**, San Diego, 5/2-6, David Ball, (619) 225-0304,

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*Age doesn't always bring wisdom.  
Sometimes it comes alone.*

**A COUPLE** was enjoying a Sunday morning breakfast when the wife went to put on her church clothes. When she returned, her husband was still in his bathrobe.

"Aren't you going to church this morning?" she asked.

"No, I'm not going this morning. In fact, I'm not going to church anymore."

"What do you mean? We've always attended church."

"There are people there who don't like me, and frankly, there are people at that church I don't like, and I'm not going!"

"I'll give you two good reasons why you will go to church," the wife said. "One, you're 42 years old. Two, you have to go – you're the preacher."

**AN ELDERLY WOMAN** was arrested for shoplifting in a supermarket.

When she went before the judge, he asked her, "What did you steal?"

She answered, "A can of peaches."

The judge asked the woman why she had stolen the can of peaches, and she replied that she was hungry.

"How many peaches were in the can?"

"Six."

"Then I'll give you six days in jail."

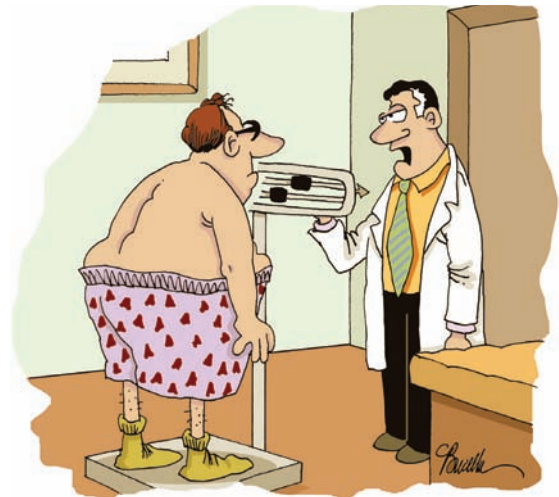
The woman's husband suddenly stood, and asked the judge if he could say something.

"What is it?" the judge asked.

"She also stole a can of peas."



"My husband and I are having a disagreement."



"No, it's not water. You seem to be retaining food."

**AN OLD MAN** was heckling the mayor at a town meeting. Finally, the mayor told the heckler, "Sir, please stand up and tell the audience what you have ever done for the good of the city."

"Well, Mr. Mayor," the man said loudly, "I voted against you in the last election."

**"I SEE** there's a funeral in town today."

"Yeah."

"Who died?"

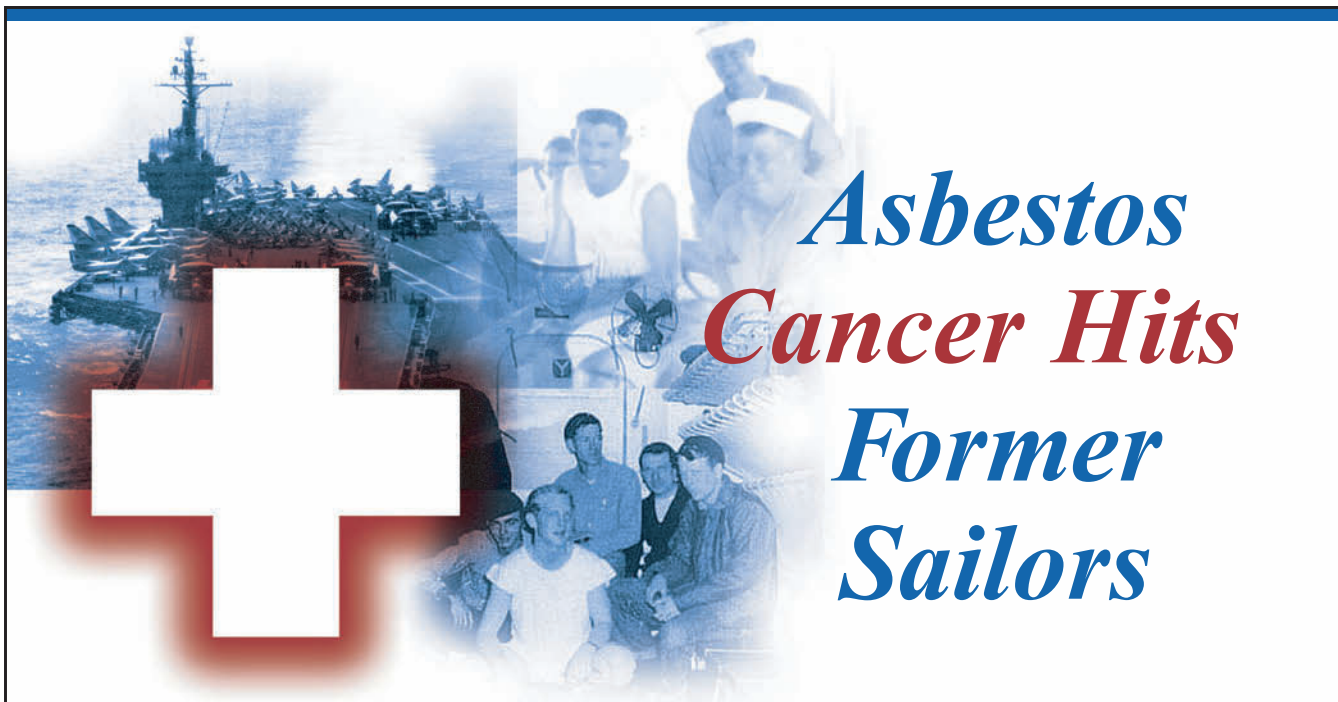
"I'm not sure, but I think it's the one in the coffin."

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"At least you know I'm not cheating."



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